

Sharon: Government probe is political

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday a widening inquiry into takeovers of Arab houses by Jewish settlers in East Jerusalem during his tenure was intended to appease international opinion. "The purpose is political and a clear signal to the PLO, to Arab states, to the United States that... the Rabin government, is ready to concede also on Jerusalem," he told Israeli Radio. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government, opposed to the takeovers, Sunday ordered an investigation of possible legal and administrative violations under the former government. A review ordered by Mr. Rabin in August of state aid to Jews settling in Arab neighbourhoods found numerous improprieties in the takeovers and the way the houses were given to Jews. Mr. Rabin, whose Labour Party ousted Yitzhak Shamir's Likud-led government in a June election, views the seizures in Jerusalem as needless provocation. "There is no doubt the activities were done with the knowledge and on the orders of the (Shamir government's) ministers," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Sunday.

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Palestinian woman sues British newspaper

LONDON (R) — A Palestinian friend of British Culture Minister David Mellor launched a libel action Monday against a tabloid newspaper which she accused of suggesting she was unfit company for a member of the government. Mona Bauwens, whose father Jawad Al Ghossein sits on the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is suing the people newspaper for damages over reports about her holiday with the Mellor family two years ago. Her lawyer Richard Hartley told the high court that 31-year-old Bauwens felt she had been portrayed as unworthy of the minister's friendship because of her father Mr. Ghossein's role within the PLO. The holiday took place in September 1990, at the start of the Gulf crisis and when Mr. Mellor, whose official title is national heritage secretary, was arts minister. The People denies libel in its stories on the holiday, which included a report on possible attacks against Britain and an editorial about Mr. Mellor's judgement in choosing Ms. Bauwens as a companion for a holiday with his wife Judith and young sons. Mr. Hartley said Ms. Bauwens was Palestinian by birth but had grown up in Europe where she now worked as a television producer. She should not be "pilloried" for the activities of her relatives, he told the court.

Syria beats Jordan in Arab basketball tournament final

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syria Monday beat Jordan 78-74 in the final of the Arab basketball tournament of the Seventh Pan-Arab Games in Syria.

Arafat receives Russian message

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat received a message from Russia on its role in the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Monday. The Russian charge d'affaires in Tunis handed the message from the Russian leadership to Mr. Arafat Sunday. The agency gave no details of its content.

Sudan lifts ban on Coca-Cola

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's cabinet has lifted a ban on production of Coca-Cola in the country, the official news agency SUNA reported Monday. SUNA gave no reason for the decision but the Arab League's Boycott of Israel Office lifted its ban on Coca-Cola in May 1991. Coca-Cola set up a factory in Sudan during the rule of former President Jaafar Numeiri, who was deposed by General Abdel Rahman Swaroudh in a coup in 1989. The Coca-Cola plant in Sudan belongs to businessman Hassan Ibrahim Malik, who also owns one of the country's two Pepsi Cola factories.

Fire guts Iran military warehouse

NICOSIA (R) — A huge fire gutted an Iranian military helicopter warehouse near Tehran airport an anti-aircraft opposition group said it was an act of sabotage. The blaze on Friday, which Tehran's Kayhan newspaper said took seven hours to extinguish, follows a spate of arson attacks on government cars around the country. Kayhan said the fire spread quickly because there was no firefighting equipment at the warehouse. It said barrels of chemicals exploded. The Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq group said in a statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus the blaze was started by "resistance forces" and destroyed large quantities of helicopter spare parts and motor oil. Kayhan said the cause of the fire was not known. It estimated the damage at tens of millions of dollars. The Mujahideen put it much higher. It said fire trucks arrived at the scene 30 minutes after the fire broke out but "had to wait behind closed doors until officials gave them permission to enter."

Russian-Japanese summit could be held in November

MOSCOW (AP) — A top Russian government official has suggested that President Boris Yeltsin meet with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in November, Okinawa, an aide to the official said Monday. The suggestion by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Potranin came less than a week after Mr. Yeltsin abruptly postponed a trip to Japan amid a domestic uproar over Japan's demand that Russia return four disputed islands. Mr. Potranin said that Mr. Yeltsin made a side trip to Japanese-held territory of Okinawa to meet with Japan's prime minister, Potranin assistant Andrei Rylysky said.

Death toll rises in Turkish-Kurdish clash

SEMDINLI, Turkey (AP) — Six Turkish soldiers and four village guards wounded in a major clash with Kurdish separatists died Monday, raising the government death toll to 21, the Anatolia news agency said. Thirty guerrillas, members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), were also reported killed when they attacked an army outpost in southeastern Turkey Sunday. The rebels apparently infiltrated from camps in northern Iraq to attack the post at Akhtun village in Hakkari province bordering Iraq and Iran.

Bilateral negotiations resume in Washington

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Arab and Israeli peace negotiators resumed talks here Monday after a 10-day recess with hopes that the break afforded the parties the chance to reflect on ideas presented during the negotiations and come up with positive approaches, particularly from the Israeli side which is accused of not living up to the expectations that were attached to the new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israeli delegates and teams from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon met separately in the morning. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were to meet in the afternoon.

The Jordanians were hoping for Israeli agreement on elements to be included in a "common agenda" encompassing the basic terms of reference for the Middle East peace process. The Palestinians were seeking Israeli reply to a 10-point proposal for interim self-government arrangements in the occupied territories and a definite Israeli commitment for troop withdrawal.

Lebanon is negotiating Israeli agreement to evacuate a border strip the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon, but reported before the talks recessed on Sept. 4 that it was not making any headway.

Syria's chief negotiator Monday ruled out a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a solution to more than four decades of conflict. But Muwaffaq Al Allaf withheld judgement on the new proposal the Israeli negotiator, Itamar Rabinovich, brought with him as the talks resumed at the State Department.

"I think it provides an excellent basis for further progress," said Mr. Rabinovich, a Tel Aviv University professor. "I very much hope our Syrian interlocutors will rise to the occasion."

Before the break, Israel and Syria had for the first time begun to talk about a settlement based on U.N. Security Council land-for-peace resolutions.

Mr. Allaf told reporters he did not want to judge Israel's proposal before seeing it. But he stressed Syria was demanding Israel give up all of the strategic Golan Heights.

"The subject of negotiations is a comprehensive peace," the Syrian diplomat said. "In a peace process for a comprehensive peace you do not talk about partial withdrawal or partial solutions."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday Syria should not expect Israeli readiness for "concessions" until Syria defines what it means by peace (see story below).

Mr. Rabinovich described the proposal Israel intended to give Syria as "very carefully prepared" and as containing "some creative thinking and a lot of good will."

He said he hoped Syria "will rise to the occasion and that a fruitful dialogue will develop on the basis of this paper."

In another development, the Bush administration has begun discussing with Israel the projected sale of 72 U.S. fighter-jets to Saudi Arabia.

Diplomatic sources said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney held an initial session on Friday at the Pentagon with Israeli military specialists and that further talks would be held.

President George Bush, in announcing the \$9 billion deal, said Israel's "qualitative edge" over the Arabs would be maintained. Still, the Israeli cabinet issued a statement Sunday objecting to the sale of weapons to the Saudis.

Talks on water resources in the region involving two dozen nations are due to open here on Tuesday (see page 3).

Moscow meeting

Israel will bring a fresh (Continued on page 5)

Sharaa says Syria rejects partial solution

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Monday Syria would reject any partial solution at the Arab-Israeli peace talks resuming in Washington Monday.

"Syria rejects any partial solution and stresses the necessity of Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories," the official news agency SANA quoted Mr. Sharaa as saying. He said Syria was ready to be committed to and implement all articles and elements of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 "to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday Syria should expect no Israeli readiness for "territorial concessions" until it defines what it means by peace.

While welcoming what he saw as a change in Syria's attitude, Mr. Rabin said Israel had yet to hear Damascus whether it agreed with Israel's definition of peace: "Open borders, diplomatic relations, embassies, normalisation of contacts between us."

Mr. Rabin was speaking to reporters before flying to Ger-

many for an official visit. His remarks came as Israeli and Arab delegations gathered in Washington to resume peace talks Monday after a 10-day break.

Although he has said he is willing to discuss "territorial compromise" on the Golan Heights, Mr. Rabin said: "At this stage nobody in the government, and certainly in the delegation, is authorised to engage in drawing maps."

The Washington talks consist of Israeli delegations negotiating separately with Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian teams.

Mr. Rabin appeared concerned that Syria will hinge the fate of negotiations on Israel agreeing to withdrawals on other fronts.

Israel wanted to know "to what extent a peace treaty with Syria will stand on its own two feet, without any link to progress on solutions of negotiations in other fields," he said.

Until Israel got Syria's definition of peace, and assurances of non-linkage, "we will not enter into any detailing of territorial problems," he said.

Mr. Rabin drew encourage-



Farouk Al Sharaa met from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's meeting last week with visiting Druze Arab leaders from the Golan, at which he called for peace with Israel.

He said the meeting in itself, and the fact that Syria's state-controlled television broadcast it, "is a new phenomenon, a good beginning. But it's only the beginning."

On Sunday, Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, said he was delivering "an attractive document" designed to push forward the negotiations.

No details of the document.

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin begins visit to Germany seeking aid

BONN (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived in Germany Monday to discuss economic and Middle East peace efforts, and officials said he would voice Israeli concern about recent rightist thuggery.

The three-day visit began in Bonn, where Mr. Rabin was to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Defence Minister Volker Ruehe, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Rita Soesemuth, speaker of the German parliament.

Mr. Rabin said the purpose of his visit was "to present Israeli policy, Israeli problems and to find ways to cooperate, especially in the economic sphere."

But Israel's ambassador to Germany, Binyamin Navon, told Israeli Radio that Mr. Rabin also planned to raise the issue of rightist radical attacks on refugees and pause for a moment of silence at a vandalised Jewish monument in Berlin.

"Not that the demonstrations are directed at Jews, but hatred of foreigners is a symptom of past memories," Mr. Navon said. "When they attack and display

violence towards foreigners, a Jew cannot be silent."

Mr. Navon said Mr. Rabin would voice concern about the attacks "as an Israeli, Jew and prime minister of the Jewish state."

Mr. Rabin is the first Israeli prime minister to visit Germany since its reunification nearly two years ago. When he travels to the site of the Sachsenhausen camp north of Berlin Wednesday, he will become the first Israeli prime minister to visit what was once communist East Germany.

Shlomo Aharonson, a Hebrew University scholar of German affairs, said Mr. Rabin should go beyond the official niceties and the economic discussions and ask Europe fundamental questions about its future.

"I would ask them — before they go into the Middle East with money and securing oil fields and all the other things that matter to them — I would ask them, what is happening with you? Where are you heading?" Mr. Aharonson said on Israeli Radio.

(Continued on page 5)

French speaker indicted

PARIS (AP) — The president of the National Assembly was indicted Monday for allegedly concealing knowledge of an illegal fund-raising scheme when he was Socialist Party treasurer.

The indictment has been expected since the newspaper Le Monde revealed in July that Henry Emmanuelli, one of France's four highest-ranking officials, had been summoned by the judge investigating a wide-ranging campaign financing scandal.

Mr. Emmanuelli was charged in remnes by Judge Renaud van Ruyambeke with complicity in and concealment of influence trafficking during his stint as the Socialist Party treasurer from 1988 to 1992, according to a defence lawyer, Patrick Maisonneuve.

Mr. Emmanuelli, 47, declined to comment when he emerged from the courthouse, but he was expected to hold a news conference later. He previously has denounced the leaks which led to the July press reports, and the

(Continued on page 5)



'WAY OF LIFE': A Somali mother, with her two children huddled around her, mourns the death of her son in Baidoa, Somalia, before carting him off in a wheelbarrow for burial. Although food is now reaching Baidoa, the quantity is insufficient and many are dying daily (see related stories below and inside)

Arab League denounces Iran, urges U.N. to lift Libya ban

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League council Monday wrapped up a three-day meeting and protested Iran's occupation of three islands in the Gulf claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In its final resolution, the council also urged the United Nations to lift air, diplomatic and arms sanctions imposed on Libya since April 15 for its refusal to hand over two suspects in the 1988 blowing up of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

All 21 members of the Arab League were represented at the biannual meeting of the ministerial council. But only 10 foreign ministers attended and the rest were represented by ministers of state or permanent delegates.

The league threw its support behind the UAE in its conflict with Iran over the ownership of the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

"The council stands by the United Arab Emirates in its steadfastness over its full sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and it denounces Iran's illegal occupation of these islands," the final resolution said.

It declared its support to "all measures taken by the UAE to emphasise its sovereignty over these islands."

On Thursday, Iran declared itself the sole owner of Abu Musa, a tiny but strategically located island in the Gulf.

Iran took control of half of the island in 1971 and then reached an agreement with the UAE Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah rejected Tehran's claim of sovereignty over them.

Iran uses Abu Musa as a strategic military base overlooking the Straits of Hormuz, the sole gateway to the oil-rich Gulf.

On Libya, the resolution said: "The council urges the (U.N.) Security Council to lift measures imposed on Libya which have declared its compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 731."

The resolution calls on Tripoli to cooperate in the Pan American probe as well as an investigation over the 1989 explosion of a French airliner over Niger.

On Israel, the council pledged

to intensify its efforts to force the Jewish state to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

It also reiterated its rejection of Israel's 1981 "annexation" of the Golan Heights.

It welcomed resumed Middle East peace talks, starting in Washington Monday, and called on Israel to withdraw from all Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war to achieve peace.

The ministers agreed to launch a diplomatic drive to put "the Arab point of view concerning Jerusalem and its future."

On disarmament in the Middle East, the resolution said Arab League members "are ready to comply with the treaty on chemical ooo-proliferation... where Israel responds to international demands to join the treaty of nuclear non-proliferation."

In a separate statement, the council pledged efforts to halt Jewish immigration to Israel, saying immigration encourages building settlements.

The statement also called on the world community to urge Israel to lift a "full blockade" it

(Continued on page 5)

Regent: Islamic countries are not a monolith

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has expressed deep concern over human suffering caused by the strife in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for better understanding of the ethic of tolerance, pluralism and humanitarianism.

In a letter published in the Washington Post of Sept. 9, the Regent called for a response to the violations of human rights in the violent-torn region based on the international principles laid down by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

Following is the text of the letter:

The tragedy unfolding in Bosnia-Herzegovina is often portrayed as a conflict of religion, or of race or of political ideology. However, it represents above all a disaster of enormous human dimensions and, as such, must be of the gravest concern to all humanitarians, irrespective of race or religion. Any war that daily claims the lives and homes of countless civilian noncombatants is surely unsupportable.

In a conflict of such complex dimensions, it would be facile to attempt to apportion blame. The most that can be said from the outside is that the scale and the intensity of the suffering involved pose a clear and direct challenge to the traditions of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and respect for human rights that distinguish the European and American democracies. The sudden creation of two million refugees, homeless in Europe, is unthinkable, but the flagrant disregard of the humanitarian norms governing warfare is all the more so.

The United Nations Commissions on Human Rights has passed clear and firm resolutions to this effect and has, moreover, proposed remedies rooted in international humanitarian law. These resolutions can form the core of a collective response to the human tragedy in Bosnia. Concerned policy makers are well advised to consider and act upon them. These resolutions are in

(Continued on page 5)

Advance party of armed U.N. troops arrives in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — The first of 500 armed U.N. soldiers arrived in Mogadishu Monday to help prevent looting of food meant for up to two million starving Somalis, officials said.

T.J. Dowling, a U.S. embassy spokesman to neighbouring Kenya, said American military C-130 cargo planes delivered the first 63 Pakistani and their equipment to the Somali capital. "We have confirmation by radio," Mr. Dowling said. "They did deliver."

Colonel Issa D. Tikoca of Fiji, deputy commander of U.N. forces in Somalia, said the initial contingent would not be deployed until the remainder of the 500-strong battalion is on the ground.

Once deployed, the troops' primary objective will be to restore order at Mogadishu's port. Ten thousand tonnes of badly needed American sorghum has sat undelivered in a dockside warehouse for two weeks because a clan dispute has prevented aid workers from distributing it.

A Turkish cargo ship carrying 6,500 tonnes of rice, beans and oil docked Sunday after standing offshore for 10 days because of insecurity at the port.

The U.N. Security Council has authorised sending 3,500 armed troops to Somalia, but only the initial 500 have been approved by the country's main warlord, general Mohammed Farrah Aidid.

Muhammad Sahnon, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, has been negotiating with Gen. Aidid and other clan warlords for weeks about deploying the

other additional 3,000. He has yet to gain their acceptance.

About 1,000 people marched past the U.N. compound in southern Mogadishu Sunday. They carried placards denouncing armed intervention, but urged more food aid.

By some estimates, nearly half of the more than 100,000 tonnes of food already shipped to Somalia this year has been stolen by armed gangs, some affiliated with clan militias.

More than 100,000 people already have died from the combined effects of war and drought. The U.N. estimates between 1.5 and two million more are in imminent risk of dying of starvation.

For the past several months, security at Mogadishu's port has been in the hands of 900 armed civilian guards drawn from three different clans.

However, aid workers say the port guards have become a force unto themselves, often refusing to permit the unloading of food until their demands for food and money are met.

The port also has been raided frequently by heavily armed gangs, one of which recently used three tanks to force its way in. It got away with 300 tonnes of food. The port is considered crucial to the relief effort.

Although the United States and several other nations have mounted food airlifts to Somalia, their capacity is limited to about 10 tonnes per plane.

(Continued on page 5)

In Somalia's war, surreal mixes with the tragic, page 2

Life appears normal in Shiite southern Iraq despite unrest

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

NAJAF — Eighteen months after the Iraqi army crushed a Shiite Muslim rebellion in the south, life appears normal in the Shiites' two holiest cities. But battle scars remain and so do the soldiers.

In Najaf, considered the Mecca for Shiites, and in Karbala, visiting foreign reporters saw where the army and rebels, backed by Iran-based dissidents, fought pitched battles in and around the mosques.

The battles raged for two weeks following the March 3, 1991, ceasefire in the Gulf war. Rebels made their last stand here about 180 kilometres south of Baghdad, and in Karbala, hoping in vain for support from the United States and its allies.

Opposition groups, in statements sent to the AP bureau in Nicosia, Cyprus, that Iraqi forces are still repressing the Shiites, with troops attacking rebels hiding in the marshes east of here.

U.S. pilots patrolling an air exclusion zone imposed over the south below the 32nd Parallel on Aug. 27, have reported no major fighting over the last two weeks.

Najaf is in the "no-fly" zone, Karbala, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, is not.

Journalists who were taken on a brief government-organised tour Sunday saw no signs of conflict, although the scars of the fierce fighting that took place last year remain.

The reporters were not able to speak privately to anyone, but life appeared normal and markets were bustling.

Womeo wearing black robes were shopping in the market adjacent to Najaf's mosque, buying oppressively sweet perfumes, trying on gold bangles and chattering over fried and sequined wedding and party dresses.

Soldiers of the elite Republican Guards, who were the main units which crushed the rebellion, and military police patrolled the market.

Posters of President Saddam Hussein were pasted above the stores at four-metre intervals — lest anyone forget the outcome of the rebellion.

Still, the devastation bespeaks a depth of resentment which the government now clearly is trying to soothe.

Baghdad says Iranian infiltrators and saboteurs for the revolt, but acknowledges some local involvement.

The government says the only battle in the south now is one for hearts and minds.

In Karbala, shattered, burned buildings still ring the neighbouring mosques of Hussein and Abbas, two of the Shiites' major saints.

The government has razed thousands of structures, shops and homes that abutted the mosques and has created a no-man's land in areas where there was fierce, door-to-door battles.

Baghdad says the buildings were too heavily damaged to be rebuilt and says innocent families were given land elsewhere.

Shiite opposition figures say the buildings were demolished as a form of collective punishment, a charge denied by Abbas mosque administrator Sheikh Zuhair Mohammad Abbas.

He said that "President Saddam Hussein is generous and has opened a new chapter" in relations with the Shiites.

Every day, newspapers report how the Baghdad government is wooing southern sheikhs and improving public services and amenities in the previously neglected region.

The media daily pronounces that there is no difference between the Shiites, who comprise about 55 per cent of Iraq's 17 million population, and the minority Sunni Muslims who dominate the government.

This warmth and attention, underway for some time, comes as the United States, Britain and France are enforcing the "no-fly" zone, which Baghdad sees as a violation of its sovereignty.

The government says the Shiites are well-treated and points to its good works.

Reconstruction was nearly completed at the mosque of Ali in Najaf and the Abbas and Hussein in Karbala.

Imam Ali, cousin of the Prophet Mohammad, Islam's founder, was the founder of the Shiite branch of Islam, which broke away from the mainstream Sunni sect in the 7th century.

Abbas and Hussein were his sons. The gold-leaf facades are being repaired, the main gate of the Hussein Mosque has been completely rebuilt and a museum in the Abbas Mosque shows where about 200 government officials and members of the ruling Baath Party were killed during the rebellion.

Some of them were banded from ropes that still dangle from the ceiling.

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Five in Khoei succession race

NAJAF, Iraq (R) — Five scholars are emerging as possible successors to Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Al Khoei whose death last month deprived Shiite Muslims of their most prominent spiritual guide.

Haider Mohammad Hassan Al Khilidar, administrator of the burial shrine of the Prophet Mohammad's slain son-in-law Ali, said it could take time before a successor emerged.

Bot Sheikh Khilidar, whose family have been administrators at the mosque for nine generations, said Iraqi Mohammad Sadeq Al Sadeq from Najaf had a good chance of becoming a "marja" (source of emulation).

"The successor is not appointed. There is no election. The people choose who to follow based on his learning," he told visiting foreign journalists.

"He will be the man with the most learning. The man who has written the greatest number of books and research pieces on theological questions," he said.

"I do not know exactly when this will happen, but many delegations have come here and asked about it," he added.

"Many of the people follow

Shiites believe that Ali, slain in nearby Kufa by former supporters, was the Prophet Mohammad's successor.

Iran, with which Iraq was at war from 1980 to 1988, is the bastion of Shiism — which tends to be associated with the poor and oppressed across the Middle East.

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Tehran paper slams U.S. stance on Iran-China pact

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian newspaper Monday criticised the United States for objecting to China's decision to sell Iran a nuclear reactor.

The Tehran Times questioned whether Washington had a right "to issue warnings to nations over the coexistence of economic agreements" and said the objections were meant to lay the groundwork for more American arms to Gulf Arab states.

Last week, Tehran and Peking concluded an agreement for China to build a 300-megawatt power plant in Iran, which both said was for peaceful purposes only.

The U.S. State Department said there were fears the plant could be used to make nuclear weapons and called China's move "highly imprudent."

The English-language Tehran Daily "asked what international laws and regulations gave the U.S. the right to issue such warnings," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, "monitored" in Nicosia, said the paper pointed to the sale of U.S.-made weapons to Middle East countries, such as President George Bush's recent approval of 72 F-15s to Saudi Arabia, or "providing the necessary means for the creation of

nuclear arms to an aggressive regime like Israel."

The Times said these represented the "hypocritical aspect" of U.S.-expressed concern over arms proliferation in the region.

"It is quite evident, of course, that America's real motive in warning China and launching a propaganda campaign over the conclusion of a scientific-economic agreement is to prepare the ground for sale of more weapons to the fairly rich governments of the southern 'Persian' Gulf littoral states," the newspaper said.

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However, recently it has been involved in a dispute over the strategic Gulf island of Abu Musa. On Thursday, Iran declared it was the sole owner of the island, which is also claimed by the Emirate of Sharjah across the Gulf in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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Cyprus rejects allegations of Serbian scam

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus denied Monday that Serbian offshore companies were using the Mediterranean island for multi-million dollar operations to sneak past United Nations sanctions.

"We categorically deny this. It's not the first time we've been accused of this. If they have evidence that we don't have then they should bring it before us," government spokesman Akis Fantis said.

"I have nothing more to say. The (central bank) governor has challenged any reporter who has evidence to make it public," he added.

Central Bank Governor Afentis Afentis denied Saturday a report in Britain's Guardian newspaper quoting unidentified senior bankers and diplomats in Nicosia and Belgrade as saying a secret sanctions-busting trade worth \$10 million a week was run through Cyprus.

Mr. Afentis, called "charges an outrageous lie," but acknowledged that sophisticated violations by offshore companies involving third countries would be hard to trace.

A U.N. trade embargo was clamped on Serbia and Montenegro, the two remaining republics in Yugoslavia, in May for their role in a Serb minority revolt against Bosnia-Herzegovina's secession from the federation.

According to the newspaper report, offshore companies controlled by Serbia and protected by Cyprus' "secretive banking laws" ship goods such as lorries and possibly oil to countries neighbouring Serbia from which they can enter the banned republic.

A senior central bank officer said Cyprus in general followed the same banking confidentiality rules as Britain. He said he would not call them "secretive."

"If there is a court warrant, for example, we overstep these rules. All offshore companies are registered through the island's official registrar's office," he said.

He estimated that about 500 Yugoslav companies were registered in Cyprus.

A senior Western banker said the number of offshore companies registered in Cyprus had grown in the past couple of years but that could be attributed to the liberalisation of former communist Europe.

A Western diplomat in Nicosia who asked not to be identified said: "It wouldn't be at all surprising if violation of U.N. sanctions was taking place through Cyprus."

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Hindawi to head delegation to education conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 43rd International Education Conference, which will be organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Geneva this week.

One hundred and thirty-six countries will be represented at the meeting by ministers responsible for education, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi will head Jordan's delegation and deliver its address to the conference.

The participants are expected to discuss a number of working papers dealing with education, culture, development and strategies and executive programmes in the 1990s, as well as plans to eradicate illiteracy and spread basic education in their countries.

In the six-day conference, the delegates will also discuss the role of education and culture in development and interaction between schools and local communities.

Jordan's delegation to the conference is expected to submit a working paper summing up a



Thounan Hindawi

national report on educational development in the Kingdom.

Jordan is also expected to take part in a series of meetings running parallel to the conference to discuss strategies for international education conferences.

The parallel meetings are organised by the UNESCO Education Council, of which Jordan is a member state.

Accompanying Mr. Hindawi to the conference are four senior Ministry of Education Officials.

Money-exchangers to resume operations after 3-year hiatus

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dozens of applicants are anxiously awaiting the issuance of licences for money-exchanging operations after the recent enactment of a law cleared the way for non-commercial banking institutions to engage in the foreign exchange trade.

In fact, some downtown establishments, which were closed down to the 1989 crackdown on money-exchangers, have already opened their doors and are doing discreet business, while waiting for the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to issue licences in response to their applications.

The CBJ, which has received about 300 applications since a new law on money-exchangers was approved by Parliament and enacted by a Royal Decree about three months ago, is expected to issue the first licences soon.

According to officials, the licensing process involves an initial approval allowing the applicants to start operations after fulfilling certain conditions pending the complete registration process.

Officials confirmed that the Council of Ministers has approved a set of licensing fees and related charges for the different categories of money-exchanging operations and cleared the last hurdle in issuing permits.

Authorities closed down the 70-plus money-exchangers in Jordan in February 1989, except those owned by commercial banks, and revoked their licences after accusing them of undermining the economy by speculation in the dinar and illegal transfers of funds abroad. Subsequently, all the companies were liquidated.

The CBJ has adopted a thorough screening process of all new applications and will give priority to "experienced" dealers among those closed down in the 1989 crackdown.

Capital requirements and prerequisites of guarantees and undertakings have been incorporated into the law to encourage the formation of larger companies with high liquidity rather than small-time one-table operators.

"I have been waiting for three years doing almost nothing," said a downtown money-exchanger this week as he dusted his counters and fitted new paper rolls to his calculating machines.

"I know no other trade than changing money," he added, explaining that he and three others had filed an application for a new licence.

Under the new regulations, exchange firms can accept and issue transfers abroad within the limits imposed by the CBJ in addition to buying and selling foreign currency. They can also accept and issue foreign cheques, but they are strictly banned from accepting deposits from the public.

The operating limitations of the new licences will be determined by the capital, the minimum of which is set at JD100,000 for operators near Jordan's land borders.

A full-fledged exchange house with permissions for all kinds of operations should have a capital of JD1 million; 30 per cent of the capital would be with the Central Bank, either in the form of bank guarantees or commercial bank deposits.

Jordan links success of water talks to progress to bilaterals

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Head of Jordan's delegation to a meeting by the working group on water within the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace talks said Monday that the success of the group's meeting is linked to progress at the bilateral talks now going on in Washington.

"Nevertheless, Jordan does not rule out consideration of ideas presented by the participants in the meeting for studying their feasibility, to the extent peace has been achieved in the region," said Dr. Munther Haddadin.

Jordan will contribute to the group's work through adopting a new water project financed by international financiers, or projects with international finance, that have been already approved by the Kingdom, Dr. Haddadin said one day before the start of the meetings.

During the two-day parley in which 38 countries will participate, several working papers on the Middle East water situation submitted by Jordan, Israel, Chi-

na, Austria, Russia, the European Community and the United States will be reviewed, Dr. Haddadin added. He said the working papers are expected to focus on regional cooperation in water-related matters and the exchange of expertise in water resources development.

Referring to the contents of the working papers, Dr. Haddadin said that his delegation will submit a detailed paper summing up the water situation, including amounts of rainfall, underground and surface water resources, the weather in Jordan and other relevant matters as well as concepts about means of increasing the Kingdom's water resources through regional cooperation.

We have clear objective about water once peace in the region is achieved through the bilateral talks, said Dr. Haddadin. He said that Jordan believes regional cooperation can help each country tackle problems related to scarcity of water resources.

"By trying to increase our wa-

ter resources we hope to raise the standard of living for the people through linking water resources development and regional cooperation to socio-economic development," said Dr. Haddadin.

He said the working group on water was expected at a later stage to be linked with the working group on economic development with the aim of yielding a package deal encompassing economic and water resources development projects.

Dr. Haddadin dismissed reports about a separate Jordanian-Israeli discussion on water as "mere hallucinations and speculations."

He said that "the road for attaining agreements on water is long and arduous."

The working group on water first met in Vienna, Austria, last May with the participation of the following Arab countries: Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Government announces construction tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has floated tenders worth JD 115 million, including JD 40 million for the construction of schools, JD 33 million for the construction of roads and JD 17 million for water and sewerage projects, according to Director General of the Government Tenders Department Basim Al Jaghbeer. Mr. Jaghbeer said that 65 per cent of the projects were financed by the Treasury, while 26 per cent were financed through loans. He said the public sector will float tenders worth JD 82 million, including JD 53 million for water and irrigation projects, before the end of the year.

Eight people killed, 242 injured in car accidents this week

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight persons were killed and 242 others injured in 396 road accidents that occurred in the first week of September, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Saturday. Nearly one third of the injured were below 10 years of age, said the statement. It said most of the accidents resulted from speeding and other violations of traffic regulations. The statement said this week's accidents caused 60 per cent more injuries than those of the previous week.

Minister opens art exhibition

AMMAN (I.T.) — Under the patronage of Youth Minister Saleh Irshaidat, a joint exhibition by the Iraqi artists Bahijah Al Hakim and Sajida Al Mashaikhy will be held at the Al-Ha Art Gallery Thursday Sept. 17. The exhibition includes 60 plates, including 30 oil paintings for Bahijah Al Hakim.

Decision to destroy produce shouldn't be 'blown out of proportion' — minister

By Laney Salisbury Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh said Monday that produce grown in areas irrigated with contaminated water from Khirbet Al Samra is about 1.5 per cent of Jordan's total production and the Cabinet's decision to destroy it should not be "blown out of proportion."

Mr. Khasawneh stressed that more than 98 per cent of Jordanian agricultural produce is irrigated "mostly (by) clean water — water clean as drinking water, from artesian wells in southern Amman, Azraq and Mafrq."

But, the minister said, produce of Khirbet Al Samra still poses "a health hazard to our people," which led to last Saturday's Cabinet decision to advise farmers in the area to destroy their produce and switch to planting the equally profitable fruit and forest trees and animal fodder. The decision was made upon the recommendation of a Council of Ministers headed by Mr. Khasawneh, when close monitoring of the 30 to 35-million-cubic-metre-capacity-recycling plant near Zarqa, revealed that water processed there was contaminated.

Mr. Khasawneh said the latest "unforeseen" population influx to Amman, following the Gulf crisis, put an extra burden on the plant.

"This influx and the boom in construction had overloaded the system," he said.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are working on plans to expand the plant, which, Mr. Khasawneh said, has been monitored for the past 10 years.

The minister said the first step to take is to lay down the legal basis for any action that will follow and then define the area possibly contaminated with coliform, a biological bacteria.

Depending on coliform bacteria counts, based on international standards, some farmers in the region may only be allowed to grow trees or vegetables that are eaten only when cooked. Others may grow any kind of produce.

"Water from Al Samra is secondary treatment sewage water, which according to World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation standards, can only be used to irrigate certain crops, he said, adding, "we don't know how many (farmers) are complying."

He added that once answers are found, civic authorities and regional governors will supervise crop substitutions.

Foodstuffs destroyed for health reasons

ZARQA (Petra) — The Health Department in Zarqa Monday destroyed three tonnes of foodstuffs because of their unsuitability for human consumption. The department also destroyed 100 cartons of juice for the same reasons.

Drug shortage to end soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh said Monday that there has lately been some shortages in a number of types of medicines but a shipment of medicines has just arrived and the problem will soon be solved.

The shortages in supplies at the Health Ministry's warehouses can be attributed to population growth and the increased number of patients seeking treatment at health centres and hospitals and delay in the tenders for importing medicines, the minister said.

In addition, Dr. Bataineh said, the continued foreign naval inspection of ships at the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden has delayed the arrival of several shipments of medicine.

Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh has already issued instructions to the concerned authorities to speed up procedures concerning the importation of badly needed medicine, according to Dr. Bataineh.

Belgian, Syrian and Libyan delegations to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Belgian parliamentary delegation is due here Tuesday on a four-day visit to Jordan during which it will hold meetings with the Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Planning.

The talks will cover Belgian-Jordanian cooperation in parliamentary relations and other fields.

Syrian and Libyan delegations will also visit the country on Sept. 21. The Libyan delegation will discuss economic cooperation with Jordan and will tour a number of industrial centres officials said.

The Syrian delegations, led by Minister of Communications Mohammad Martini will hold talks with Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairoh on means of promoting communications services between Jordan and Syria.

During the several-day visit, the Syrian minister is expected to sign an agreement related to the national telecommunications linkage between Damascus and Amman.


Ministry honours artists

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samrah Monday honoured Jordanian artists who won awards at the Cairo International Theatre Festival.

Jordanian actress, Kifah Salameh, who starred in the play "The Rebel and the Clown," won an award as the best actress in the festival, in which 32 Arab and foreign countries participated.

Addressing the artists, the minister said that the success of the Jordanian theatrical work places Jordan at the same level with countries that have long experience in theatre performance. "The award of the best actresses offered to Ms. Salameh is a source of pride for all Jordanians," the minister said.

Dr. Samrah, who has just returned from a visit to China, announced in an earlier statement that his ministry was building a national library at the cost of \$6 million. The project will be financed through a loan from China and two Chinese delegations will be visiting Jordan in October and November to discuss technical matters related to it.



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Picnic in hazardous way

JORDAN'S MATERIAL progress has started to take its toll on our lives. The decision by the government Saturday to strictly enforce rules and regulations concerning agricultural produce along the Zarqa River basin was a serious step and long overdue. Just 30 years ago the Zarqa River basin, extending about 40 kilometres from downtown Amman all the way to the Jordan Valley, was a lush garden of fruits and vegetables, as well as a beautiful and clean picnic area.

That piece of territory, described by a 19th century traveller as a garden of Eden, has unfortunately been transformed not only into an industrial basin but has become a dangerous area for agriculture as well.

The river basin is being used as a dumping ground for all sorts of industrial waste, mainly emanating from a two-dozen factories on its banks. Until a few years ago Amman's sewage was dumped into the valley before it was moved to the Khirbet Al Samra sewage treatment plant. The efficiency of that plant has been questioned quite often and rightly so.

Three years ago the authorities took a decision to close down the factories along the river banks, but backed down on their decision only 48 hours later. Farmers on the highlands of Zarqa were complaining of sewage from the treatment plant seeping through the soil and polluting underground water.

Notwithstanding the latest government decision, many questions still remain about the health hazards posed by the wrong use of nature. What about the Khirbet Al Samra water and waste from factories still reaching the King Talal Dam? Is agricultural produce irrigated beyond the dam still safe? How about pollution in the Jordan Valley created by excessive use of insecticides, pesticides and hormones? What about the water we drink? How clean is it, and how safe? These and many other questions need not to be answered and addressed. Piecemeal treatment of health hazards to our people and children only when they surface is an indication of both incompetence and disregard to citizens' lives.

It is high time that all the concerned authorities — government, municipalities, institutions — and all non-government organisations pool their resources together, study the issue seriously and come out with proposals for urgent solutions and implement them right away. The people's deputies in parliament also should take a break from their daily political squabbles and pay full attention to an issue so vital for the well-being of Jordanians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday commented on the resumption of the peace talks in Washington and said that the truth about the Israeli government position with regard to a lasting settlement with the Arab states will be known in the coming days. The paper said that in the past weeks the Israelis had been issuing statements considered as baloon tests about possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights. These tests aimed at two things: confusing the Arab parties, making it look like Israel and Syria are going along a separate peace course and, second, testing the real attitudes of the Jewish extremists who had set up their homes and settlements on the occupied Golan Heights, the paper said. With the start of the negotiations, the Arabs will be in a position to know more facts about the Israeli position from Israel's negotiators who are returning to the negotiating table from consultations at home, added the daily. It said that the Israeli leaders have been using one political manoeuvre after another and trying to mislead the Arabs and the world public opinion at large about their real intentions and about their designs. The paper said that the Arab foreign ministers who recently met in Damascus have adopted a unified stand with regard to the bilateral talks; the Israelis had hoped that with their manoeuvres they will be able to breach the wall of unity among the Arab parties. The paper said that the Arabs have to prove in Washington that they are committed to their unity of ranks as declared in the Syrian capital.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Monday that the Arab League is not expected to do anything or take serious action to protect Arab interests in the Ahn Moussa Island which was recently occupied by Iranian forces. The Gulf Cooperation Council member states plus Egypt and Syria have been meeting to discuss the situation in the aftermath of the Iranian occupation, but proved unable to come up with a formula to ensure the re-establishment of Arab rights on the usurped island, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that only when the United States interests are threatened, will Washington act on behalf of the Gulf states and come to their aid. In the case of Abu Moussa Island, the Gulf states are unable to do anything against Iran because the United States is not involved and its own interests are not affected despite the fact that the United States is committed through its recently concluded pacts with the Gulf rulers to depend the Gulf by all means in the face of an external threat, the writer added. The writer criticised those Arab states which advocated the idea of a rapid deployment Arab force to operate in the Gulf and said that their plans had come to naught. He said that it is U.S. interests that motivate Washington's armed forces to interfere and take action, and the Gulf states ought to realise this fact because they have bet on forces that seem uninterested in protecting Arab rights.

The View from Fourth Circle

Once again, with a bit more clarity ...

I have been astounded and saddened by the controversy created by my column of last week, and I am particularly sorry that so many people were offended and angered by it. Clearly, that was not my intention. I am confident that most of the ill feelings resulted from severe misinterpretations of my intentions and misreadings of my words. Perhaps I am to blame for so much ambiguity in the article — one of my shortcomings as an Anglophonic Arab writer — or for phrasings that could have been interpreted as offensive insinuations. This was not my intention.

I am also sure that the anger towards me is a result of misunderstandings and misreadings, because I have had so many calls and messages from Jordanians who saw the article as an expression of faith in the King, people, and country of Jordan. Many people understood what I meant to say; many others did not. I see now, in retrospect, that many people deemed the very subject of the article and its timing to be inappropriate and discourteous. No matter how carefully I phrased my words, I was probably bound to be misunderstood, and attacked. This is an occupational hazard that comes with public writing and speaking. The reverse side of this is the responsibility to explain and clarify, and also to express regret when offense has been taken, even if offense was not meant.

I am particularly grieved that many of those who were offended chose to attack me on a personal basis, essentially accusing me of being a disloyal and disrespectful Jordanian who should be hounded out of town for his Palestinian heritage and American passport. I was saddened by the sarcasm, the attempts to discredit me personally, the attempt to cast doubt on my credentials as a Jordanian national, and the obvious desire to hurt that was clear in some of the published letters and Arabic-language columns. I can handle simplistic attempts to smear my character, while I am fully confident of my motives, intentions, identity, and status in Jordan. To those who are capable of listening with an open mind, as the vast majority of Jordanians are, I would say the following:

Many who misinterpreted my article thought I was suggesting that His Majesty King Hussein should step down soon. This was absolutely not my intention. I suggested that His Majesty and the country "contemplate the manner and nature" of a "phased, gradual transition," by which I was thinking of a time period years from now, and not next month.

My primary motive in raising this issue was to suggest a means by which we could gradually relieve the extraordinary pressures that the King has borne for over four decades. His greatest wish, I believe, is to see Jordan succeed him as a stable and productive country, secure in its national dignity, political composure, and human compassion. I am totally confident this will happen, and that the succession, when it occurs, will vindicate the King's trust in his people, his family, and his life's work. My suggestion to ponder a phased, gradual transition was meant as a

sign of deep respect, affection and commitment to His Majesty and to Jordan — one small suggestion from one concerned Jordanian looking for ways to reduce the burden that the King has carried for four decades.

In this context, many of my words (the mention of Numairi, Barre, and the Shah, for example) were misunderstood. I meant that the King's whole life and the achievement of Jordan are already testament to his life's work to date and to his faith in God, country and people. Our challenge now is to seek ways to affirm and to perpetuate all this. It is preposterous that I should be seen to equate His Majesty with Numairi, the Shah, or Siad Barre, and I am astounded that some people have read my article this way. I mentioned these three men as examples of failures in nation-building, while the whole thrust of my column (and almost everything else I have said or written about Jordan in the last 17 years) is that history will credit the King as a master statesman.

The highest complement we can pay the King is to be truthful with him and about him, and to try to help him take his historical mission to an even higher level, by providing an example of durable nation-building for the Arab World and the whole Third World. Barre, Numairi, and the Shah are the failures who contrast with the successes of King Hussein. I tried to encapsulate my motives in the last paragraph, in which I said that the King had given us so much that we need to give him more in return. That's what the article is all about. Perhaps my motives were more clear to me than my sentences were to those readers who misunderstood them, and were angered or offended.

Many critics also thought I was somehow questioning the stability of Jordan when the succession to the post-Hussein era takes place, or questioning the fact that HRH Crown Prince Hassan would succeed. Such a reading of my column is absolutely wrong and totally fanciful. I did not in any way intend to talk about personalities, now or in the future. The fact that I did not mention names should indicate the long-term horizon I was trying to deal with in the article, and to do so from a perspective of deep affection and respect for the King and the country. To read my words otherwise is wrong.

The perception that I may have been casting doubt on the ability of Crown Prince Hassan to succeed is a shameful lie, absolutely shocking and unbelievable to me, and indicative of a tendency among some readers driven by deep fear of ghosts not known to me. I have only respect and esteem for Crown Prince Hassan, who showed his true mettle in 1991 when he told a television interviewer, during the Gulf crisis, that we live and die in Jordan. I believe that my record in Jordan over the years speaks for itself in terms of my working for the same Jordanian and pan-Arab goals that he has dedicated his life to.

I am perfectly aware of the Jordanian constitution's provisions for succession, and have full faith in the capacity of the people and

political system of Jordan to implement all relevant provisions smoothly and with decorum.

For people to question my loyalty, and to accuse me of asking His Majesty to step down, disparaging the person of the Crown Prince, or questioning the ability of Jordan to survive a succession, is sheer fantasy. It may be the result of a mere misreading of my article or the ambiguity of my writing style; it may be a reflection of the sensitivities of the subject I raised, even though I raised it from a perspective of sincerely wanting the best for the King and the country; or it may be motivated by other, more sinister forces for provincialism that we have seen emerge in the press this week — forces that we shall fight, humiliate, defeat, and forever bury as antiquated relics.

I am amazed that my intentions or motives could be misunderstood in light of my life's history in Jordan. I don't write with my passport. I write with my heart and my head. Passports are travel documents. Identities are forged in geography and community. If some people suspect my credentials as a Jordanian national, I do not, and I will not play their hysterical and frenzied game of wallowing in fear and confusion. I have repeatedly stuck my neck out in public, in media and personal fora all over the world, defending and explaining Jordan and its positions, even at times when this was politically unpopular in the region or around the world. At the same time, I am proud of my Palestinian identity, and I continue to work for strong Jordanian-Palestinian ties at all levels.

I have established my personal life and professional career in Jordan and have given as much as I can to the country. Is it imaginable that I would repay the confidence, trust, opportunity, and dignity of Jordan by suggesting in public that the King should step down, his Crown Prince is incapable of following him, or the country is somehow in trouble?

I believe my record of the last 17 years speaks for itself. I also believe that the only foundation on which I can stand is my commitment to the truth and my allegiance to my Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab identity. I seek no higher material or personal benefits from my personal and professional associations in Jordan. I remain committed to the truth as the vector of our common quest for a country that is good and always getting better, our testament to all that His Majesty, the rest of the Royal family, and the people of Jordan have achieved, and our mutual commitment to the ideals of a free and self-determinant Palestine and an integrated and noble Arab World.

I think that's what His Majesty the King and all others in Jordan also want — but the next time I venture to say so I'll make sure to use shorter sentences, more precise adjectives, and a lot more clarity.

LETTERS

Relevant leadership

To the Editor:

Regarding Rami Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, Sept. 8, 1992), the reader discerns a distinct lack of realism and political maturity on the part of the writer.

The article cites the formation of political parties and the emergence of a mass media as indicative of a pluralistic Jordanian society. Quite so, but only up to a point. The stalled experiments in democracy in Turkey and Lebanon during the 1970s emphatically affirm that there is more to stable democratic self-government than institutional evolution. The bedrock of a durable democracy lies in the ethics of tolerance and consensus, the nurturing of which requires time. Democracy cannot be rushed, as the example of Russia attests.

Jordan's democratic development is laden with promise, yet is also susceptible to danger. Herein lies His Majesty's central role. His wisdom, humanity, and proven courage make him uniquely poised to lead our nation to its democratic future. King Hussein has been at the helm of Jordan's democratic initiative from the outset; he, like no other, can draw on his unparalleled experience to help us reap the dividends of democracy while side-stepping its pitfalls. He therefore remains as relevant to our future as he has been to our past.

The atmosphere of openness and free expression that enables this and other writers to voice their thoughts unhindered derives from the political "reality" painstakingly woven by His Majesty despite overwhelming odds. Ironically, the writer spares no efforts or words in reminding us of many of His Majesty's achievements. He then puts forth the argument that in order to prevent the squandering and dispersal of those golden accomplishments, the architect of our young democracy should "abdicate" (in what the writer describes as a "crowning gift" to the Jordanian people). Odd logic indeed — certainly odd enough for the reader to question the writer's true motives in submitting his article. One ponders this point all the more given that Crown Prince Hassan will succeed His Majesty, in God's own time, thereby assuring the country a smooth political transition. May God grant good health and long years to His Majesty, to the Hashemites and to the Jordanian Family.

Mahmoud Izziddin Al Mufli,
P.O. Box 2264,
Amman.

Stop Rami Khouri!

To the Editor:

RAMI Khouri should be stopped from writing in your respected newspaper and banned from appearing on JTV because of the article he wrote on Sept. 8.

I suggest you will lose much of your credibility if you continue to allow him the space for his weekly column "The View from Fourth Circle". I am a devoted enthusiast for freedom of opinion and speech but, when it comes to touching on such a sensitive matter as that he tackled in the above mentioned article, I prefer to drop the word "Democracy" from my dictionary.

Said D Khalifeh,
P.O. Box 1149,
Amman.

No time for prophets

To the Editor:

Mr. Rami Khouri's article, "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, Sept. 8, 1992), unfortunately fails to show us what opportunity it is for Jordan in His Majesty King Hussein's ailment. Jordan is governed by its constitution which spells out the three branches of government and describes the process of succession to the Hashemite throne. Furthermore, Mr. Khouri seems to have overlooked public feelings and the sensitivity of the issue at hand especially at a volatile moment in the region's history.

Mr. Khouri should be logical in his next article and should know that this is no time for prophets of doom.

Futah Jamil Abdul Wahab,
P.O. Box 5190,
Amman.

More thought for serious issues

To the Editor:

RAMI Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times Sept. 8, 1992), has served to undermine the credibility and reputation of its writer as a serious thinker.

Let me start by emphasising that this reply is not meant "to show affection for King Hussein and Jordan with a shower of superlative praise," nor as a means of abdicating responsibility for the easier route of heaping praise on the wisdom and health of the King. This reply aims only to remind the writer of certain important facts that he must have forgotten when writing his article. I am confident that Mr. Khouri is only too aware of these facts, and should have taken them in consideration when writing such an article, as he must have realised that it would ignite controversy, at least, and anger, at most. It is therefore imperative to remind the writer to consider the following:

— The article states at the outset that developments related to His Majesty's health have provided "an opportunity to gauge the underlying political condition of Jordan." Having carefully read the article numerous times, I, for one, have concluded that the writer has failed in achieving what he professes to be his purpose. In no way does this article even attempt to measure the political condition in Jordan. Rather, it prescribes a certain path, and is at pains trying to justify this prescription. The writer should note that His Majesty's "medical reality" is quite assuring, as we all have seen and heard. We have no reason to think otherwise. This reality should be seen neither as an opportunity nor as a crisis, and it certainly is not "Jordan's opportunity."

As a public figure, it is only expected that His Majesty's condition should be a matter of concern. However, I do maintain that the Jordanian people as well as the rest of the world have been satisfied with the reporting of His Majesty's condition, and have accepted the surgery as an event that took place successfully. Pope John Paul II, President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush, Mr. Yasser Arafat, and other world leaders have had serious medical treatment of one sort or another, and no speculation or conjecture about their political future took place.

— The Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is very clear and unambiguous about the line of succession to the throne. Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal is legally and constitutionally the heir to the throne. A transition is governed by laws and is not a matter about which the writer should start speculating.

— It seems to me that the only person who realises King Hussein's historical mission is King Hussein himself. Relying on two sentences, uttered by His Majesty on two separate occasions, does not lead credibility to the writer's attempt to prove that he fully comprehends the mind, hopes and aspirations of the King.

It is true that King Hussein has been consistently working for the institutionalisation of the country, but this should not be taken to mean that this process is about to be completed, or that when it actually is, then the role of the King will come to a "sudden end".

May I remind the writer that the process of nation-building in Jordan did not start in 1989, and that it will not be completed in the near future. Many positive steps contributing to this process have been taken, emanating from a relatively young but rich political history, in the hope of enhancing pluralistic and democratic governance, and not undermining it. The executive branch is part and parcel of this system and will stand to gain from this experience.

— The only measure available to assess the success rate of the process of nation-building is the continuity of the nation. Reading the article, especially the last part, one gets the impression that the writer is attempting to make this logical point. It is disappointing, however, to note the manner in which this is stated, for it is confusing, even to the point of delivering a totally different meaning. Specifically, one fails to grasp why this moment is "opportune for King Hussein to do several rather dramatic things at once". Indeed, the King does not need to follow such a politically and historically naïve path, in order to test his success or to boast about his achievements.

In sum, the writer's concept of a "phased transition" is wholly irrelevant, and is built upon an inaccurate reading of events that is very unusual for this writer.

More thought should have been given prior to publication of this article, since it borders on the politically naïve and can easily be interpreted as being very offensive to the vast majority of Jordanians.

The relegation of the debate of serious issues to such low intellectual levels is counterproductive, and can be potentially

destructive. Elegance is a quality that should be used to describe less important matters than the history of a nation.

Bassem I. Awadallah,
P.O. Box 2982,
Amman.

Unrealistic views

To the Editor:

I read with disbelief Rami G. Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, Sept. 8, 1992). Up till now I regarded the writer as an intelligent person, incapable of producing such an insipid article. Yet, to my astonishment, the insinuations it contained reversed my thoughts of him. Over the last two days, discussions of the article's contents with colleagues and friends produced a shared feeling of disgust.

I hope this brief letter will expose some of the abundant unrealistic views it offered. First, the devotion and affection of the people of Jordan to the person of His Majesty King Hussein extends to the Royal Hashemite Family as a whole. The constitutional monarchy that Jordan is privileged to have, produced a hard-working, well-educated nation and a stable democratic system of government capable of going through a crisis without losing balance.

Reading through the article, one wonders how the writer can be so ignorant of the fact that His Majesty has designated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as heir to the throne. This nullifies the "unknown future scenario" mentioned by the writer.

Second, the implication that His Majesty should abdicate, following his illness, is simply repugnant. It is a fact that only God knows when one's life ends. To follow the writer's implications, many world leaders should have retired for fear of heart attacks, old age or any sudden illness.

Third, the comparison to the Shah, Numairi and Barre seemed extremely odd and out-of-place. It is a perfect example of "comparing apples with oranges" and of confusing the issue.

Finally, thanking God for His Majesty's recovery, one concludes by wishing His Majesty a long, healthy and prosperous life.

Dr. Majed A. Dabbas,
University of Jordan,
Amman.

Overlooked legality

To the Editor:

Contrary to my expectations, and those of many others, of the calibre of thought and style usually present in Rami Khouri's articles, his piece entitled "Jordan's opportunity: where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, September 8, 1992) lacked both historical and political depth, style and tactfulness. His choice of title was inappropriate to the extent that I was led to think that the article was some advertisement encouraging tourism in Jordan.

Going beyond the title, the article is unashamedly presumptuous in lending advice to His Majesty King Hussein Ibn Talal, a leader whose knowledge and far-sightedness rests on an experience of only over forty years....!!

Moreover, the article displays such blatant unawareness of Jordan's political condition (which, paradoxically enough, the article is supposed to have examined) where the presence of a highly prominent, popular and capable Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Ibn Talal, is overlooked. It seems strange that such a "knowledgeable" writer, like Mr. Khouri can ignore the legality of the presence of a Crown Prince, who has shouldered his responsibilities in an outstanding manner for over a quarter of a century, earning through the years the admiration and respect of both friend and foe, for Jordan, its King and people.

Sumar S. Juteh,
P.O. Box 341,
Amman-Jordan.

Noor Al Hussein Foundation bringing creative development to Jordanian communities

AMMAN — On September 4, 1985, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) was established by a Royal Decree to coordinate and oversee a number of projects and programmes which Her Majesty Queen Noor had helped establish in the fields of culture, education, social welfare and human and community development.

Seven years later, the foundation, thanks to the endeavors of Her Majesty, has expanded into an extensive network of projects scattered across the Kingdom. The foundation currently coordinates and sponsors programmes in areas related to family and community development, children, education and culture, and catering to such groups as children, women and the general public at large.

According to available NHF data, the number of projects and programmes implemented under the mandate of the foundation has hit the 35 mark, signaling a dramatic rise in levels of community involvement in those activities. To a large extent, such an

expansion appears to be more the outcome of a new innovative vision of development that no longer sees socio-economic and cultural changes merely as "a top-down, one-way process," with a heavy economic focus.

"Our philosophy derives from the concept of development as embodying self-reliance, self-help and self-management," said NHF President Mrs. In'am Mufti. She added that for Noor Al Hussein Foundation, development is also a process centred on the individual within the framework of the family, the community and the environment. She added that such a process involves a great deal of grass-root participation, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Unlike some traditional "one-shot" development projects, NHF's programmes are designed to last over extended periods of time, with a heavy focus on initiating and sustaining income-generating ventures. The foundation's Quality of Life Project seems to be a case in point here.

Established to enhance the quality of living in rural Jordanian areas, the project promotes patterns of integrated development that draw heavily on consensus-building, social participation, transfer of appropriate technology and human resource development. Initially launched with assistance from the World Health Organisation, then later from several international organisations, the project extends help to rural residents to help them improve the quality of their life through establishing small-scale income-generating schemes.

According to Mrs. Mufti, such a project would also help rural people raise their standards of living and solidify their role in the community and the surrounding environment.

"Before we start a project, we would first think of the marketability of its output. This would ensure continuity and would open up new work opportunities for families in the rural areas of Jordan," Mrs. Mufti said.

The question of product marketability takes on a critical significance when it comes to items requiring a high degree of accuracy and creativity, such as handicraft. The NHF president said that quality control emerges as the key factor in the process of making final products with competitive designs, capable of winning consumers' satisfaction.

The foundation sponsors a handicraft development project that seeks to create job opportunities for Jordanian craftsmen, revive traditional crafts and preserve a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage. Training of handicraft production also takes place at the Salt Handicraft Training Centre which was launched in 1987 in cooperation with the Salt Development Corporation and the Italian government.

The foundation's women-related projects such as the Women and Development Project, also seek to help low-income middle-aged women participate more actively in Jordan's economic growth and national development. Pilot programmes initiated in 1988 included a beekeeping and honey production scheme, a leather stitching and shoe production workshop, a garment production unit, herbal gardens, a rabbit farm and a service

for small business counselling. The project also aims at providing women in target groups with relevant information to help them improve the well-being of their own families and the productive capacities of their communities.

Topics of instruction include birth spacing, child care, nutrition, hygiene, basic health care and income-generating opportunities.

Another component of the NHF development philosophy is that all projects and programmes are created in response to emerging needs of communities. For instance, absence of an institution concerned with the art of music has given rise to the establishment of NHF's National Music Conservatory in 1986. This project seeks to help children develop their musical skills through practical training by specialists on a variety of musical instruments.

Two equally important educational and cultural NHF projects include the Theatre in Education Project, and the Mobile Life and Science Museum.

Although Noor Al Hussein Foundation seems to have drawn widespread involvement of

Jordanians from all walks of life in its many projects and programmes in the past seven years, it still has to do more to see its goals fulfilled. "We have some problems that we hope to overcome to sustain NHF's momentum... These include securing appropriate funding for our projects... we have many villages on the waiting list to be covered by our projects and programmes. The NHF president also cited other problems such as lack of opportunities for training foundation staff and volunteers on the techniques and methods of social work and community development, especially in rural areas and the low level of coordination and cooperation with other institutions working in the field of development in Jordan.

"There has to be a mechanism for further cooperation among national bodies concerned with development issues in Jordan," she added.

Another major problem facing the foundation relates to traditional people's conceptions of themselves as mere recipients of a one-way flow of assistance, according to Mrs. Mufti. However, Mrs. Mufti said that by time, people have got increasingly used to our conception of development as a two-way process involving grassroots participation on the part of the community. "People are now learning that our goal is to help them help themselves through starting their own projects, relying on themselves and thus helping improve their overall socio-economic conditions," she added.

The impressive performance of Noor Al Hussein Foundation in diffusing this development philosophy seems to have opened up new horizons for NHF in the future. "We are planning to expand our activities on the national and regional levels and generalise our development experience to other contexts inside Jordan and in the Arab World," Mrs. Mufti said. She added that top priority is given to the opening of the Jubilee School and the Centre for Early Childhood Education. "We also hope to realise our goal of launching the first children's hospital in Jordan once funds are made available," Mrs. Mufti concluded.

Bilateral negotiations resume

(Continued from page 1)

approach to Mideast arms talks starting in Moscow Tuesday, but will face old demands for foreign inspection of its nuclear weapons programme, participants said.

"Israel's basic security interests remain the same," Israeli embassy spokesman Yosi Ben Dor said Monday. "But our new government is bringing a fresh mood and atmosphere to the process; sometimes this is no less important."

Israel and the Arabs will discuss reductions of arms in the Middle East during the three-day meeting.

It will be the third phase of the Middle East peace process that began in Madrid, Spain, last October, and the second session of working groups formed by a January conference in the Russian capital. (Syria and Lebanon are staying away).

It was unclear whether Palestinian representatives would be allowed to attend. They were kept out of the first arms control meeting in Washington when Israel and the United States argued that Palestinians do not represent a sovereign entity with armed forces.

A Palestinian delegation arrived in Moscow during the weekend and plans to attend when the talks open Tuesday, according to Saleh Atrazha, a spokesman for the Palestinian mission.

Members of the Palestinian delegation were not available for comment.

Despite Israel's optimistic expectations for the talks, it will have to deal with Jordan's expected demand that Israel open its nuclear facilities for international inspection, something Israel has long resisted.

Jordan's chief negotiator, Abdullah Touqan, also said before leaving Amman Sunday that the Kingdom will propose that all countries in the region sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

According to Western reports, Israel has more than 100 nuclear warheads and a plutonium manufacturing plant. Israeli officials have refused to confirm or deny it, but have maintained that they would not be the first to introduce weapons of mass destruction in the region.

The talks also will address chemical and biological weapons.

Regent: Islamic countries not a monolith

(Continued from page 1)

many respects wider in scope than those adopted at the time of the Gulf crisis.

At that time, my country was obliged to host more than one million third-country nationals en route from the Gulf to their countries of origin in addition to an influx of more than 300,000 Jordanian nationals from Gulf states. We in Jordan know firsthand the overwhelming difficulties that accompany displacement on this scale. Other countries in the region, most notably Yemen, likewise experience severe economic and human suffering as a consequence of involuntary mass migration and an inadequate international response.

These realities are still integral

to daily life in many parts of the Middle East. Perhaps this is one reason why events in Bosnia have caused such deep concern in the Muslim World. It must, however, be pointed out that the Islamic countries do not constitute a monolith, either in orientation or in policies. Stereotypical perceptions and representation of "the threat of Islam" are among the very causes of the conflict in Bosnia, and those who continue to depict such a "threat" can only be contributing to its potential spread. Rather than division, integration and inhumanity, the ethic of tolerance, pluralism and, above all, humanitarianism are now more than ever the only truly viable path.

Rabin begins visit to Germany

(Continued from page 1)

Past reports have said Israel would like five billion marks (\$3.3 billion) in loan guarantees and "grants," some of in reparations for Nazi war crimes never paid by former East Germany.

But Israel Radio reported Monday that Mr. Rabin would ask only for some one billion marks (\$670 million) to create jobs for immigrants in universities and research institutions.

Some 400,000 refugees have come to Israel from the former Soviet Union since mid-1989,

placing a heavy burden on the economy. Unemployment has hit record highs, and now runs at about 10 per cent.

Mr. Navon said Mr. Rabin was also expected to discuss the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Israel's hopes for a solid trading relationship with a united Europe.

Mr. Rabin will also attend a conference of the Socialist International, a meeting of socialist and social-democratic parties in Berlin, before returning to Israel Wednesday.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Aid workers say that if the port were functioning properly, 2,000 tonnes a day could be moved out of the facility by truck convoys.

Belgium is planning to send 550 paratroopers to Somalia in early October to join the United Nations forces, Defence Minister Leo Delcroix said Sunday.

The decision to put Belgian troops at the U.N.'s disposal was announced Friday, but the government had not said when they would leave.

Mr. Delcroix said the Belgian troops would leave in early October to help escort and protect food convoys and possibly carry out surveillance of ports in Somalia. "This is a humanitarian mission," he said.

Egypt and Canada will also send troops the joint force. The operation is expected to cost \$37 million.

French

(Continued from page 1)

governing Socialists have accused the judge of political motives.

The indictment comes just six days before a crucial national referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, which proposes closer economic and political union for the European Community. The Socialist leadership is strongly behind the treaty.

It was not immediately clear when a trial might be held or what sentence Mr. Emmanuel might face if convicted.

Arab League condemns Iran

(Continued from page 1)

imposed on the Gaza town of Rafah. It said the blockade resulted in severe shortages in food and medicine.

Another resolution pledged "immediate financial help" to Jerusalem to enable its Palestinian citizens to keep their real estates and prevent Israeli occupation authorities from laying hand on their properties. The amount of help was not disclosed.

Other resolutions spoke of consolidating the struggle of residents of the Syrian Golan Heights against Israeli occupation practices, labelled a decision by the Israeli Knesset to affirm the "annexation" of the Golan Heights as well as void and said the Knesset move constituted a flagrant violation of U.N. Security Council resolution 497 of 1981.

Iran Monday condemned the

Arab League's support for the UAE in the dispute over the islands.

A foreign ministry spokesman, who was not identified by name, told the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency that the declaration by the league was an "irresponsible stance."

The Iranian spokesman called the three islands "Iranian" and said the world should disregard the UAE claim to them because it was based on invalid "historical claims."

"The spread of such arguments would result in insecurity" in the region, the spokesman said.

Tehran Television meanwhile quoted Iran's chief justice as saying Iran would "continue to maintain security on Abu Musa." Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi was paraphrased as saying the territorial dispute was fanned by the "arrogant powers," the Iranian term to describe the United States and its allies.

Syria rejects partial solution

(Continued from page 1)

were given, but Mr. Rabinovich said he hoped it would help the two delegations to draft a joint declaration of principles.

While sounding optimistic about Syria, Mr. Rabin accused Palestinians of skirting the key issue of the present talks, that of interim self-rule for the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Our problem with the Palestinians is that they are trying to change the subject to less relevant matters," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin said Israel was ready to discuss human rights, arrests and house demolitions as demanded by the Palestinians but he called these mere "symptoms."

"So long as there is no solution — I mean an interim agreement — all of these are mere symptoms of the reality, of the disease and not the problems creating them," he said.

Israel's new government, which had said the chance of progress was greatest with the Palestinians, has become markedly more critical of Palestinian than Syrian positions.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi accused Israel in a Washington speech Saturday night of trying to drive a wedge between the Arab sides, telling Arab Americans: "This is again another divide-and-conquer method."

Syria and Lebanon delay talks

(Continued from page 1)

Hawi on Sept. 23, 1990. Most of Lebanon's Christian community boycotted the first general elections in 20 years, which ended on Sept. 6, on the grounds that they should only be held after the pullback.

The elections went ahead and produced a new parlia-

ment dominated by Syrian-backed deputies. Five outstanding Christian seats in the 128-seat legislature are due to be elected on Oct. 11.

Diplomats say the question of an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon has become dependent at the Middle East talks on progress over an Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights.

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Edberg wins 2nd straight U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Quick at the net, slick with his volleys, Stefan Edberg captured his second straight U.S. Open and regained the No. 1 ranking Sunday with a lot of help from a weak and uninspired Pete Sampras.

Edberg's end to his arduous route to the title was a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) in 2 hours, 51 minutes after three straight five-setters that took a total of 13 hours, 43 minutes.

Sampras, the youngest Open champion when he won at 19 in 1990 but looking much older and worn out after a night of sickness, accommodated Edberg by blowing several big opportunities.

"Play like you want it, Pete," a fan yelled out to him between serves in the first game of the fourth set. Sampras looked annoyed, promptly lost the next point and eventually the game, but it was a remark that reflected Sampras' lackluster effort.

Serving for the set at 6-5 in the pivotal third set, Sampras hit one of his 11 double-faults and was broken. He double-faulted again in fall behind 6-4 in the tie-breaker, then lost the set when he swept a backhand crosscourt wide.

"Last night I had a stomach virus," Sampras said. "I left here around 12:30. I had a massage and went to sleep at 3:30. I got up at 8 this morning. I had stomach cramps. I'm not giving an excuse. I just didn't have enough today."

"As the match wore on, especially in the fourth set, I was out of gas. I'm mentally and physically very exhausted. I had a long night last night."

Sampras also said he was bothered by pain in his shins during the match, but that hardly accounted for his double-faults and first-serve sometimes 30 mph slower than his normal 120 mph shots.

Edberg became the first player to repeat as open champion since Ivan Lendl won his third in a row in 1987. But Edberg didn't play nearly as well as a year ago when he crushed Jim Courier.

"The tennis wasn't that great out there," Sampras said. "Both of us were tentative."

Edberg, who endured a record 5:26 semifinal against Michael Chang Saturday, said his whole tournament was "humpy."

"I really think I earned it this year," he said after picking up the \$500,000 winner's check. "I worked very hard. I've had some unbelievably tough matches here, and it helped me today. I felt the sharpest I felt all week. He came out hot and played well the first set. Once I got the second set, I felt I was in it."

The second set went with serve until the 10th game, when Sampras double-faulted at deuce, whacked a backhand long for break-point, then dropped the set when Edberg speared a backhand volley that Sampras couldn't touch.

Edberg had to keep digging out of trouble in the third set, fending off four break-points in the first game, one in the fifth game and one more in the seventh. The problem had more to do with his serves, including several foot faults, than with Sampras' returns.

After Sampras wasted the chance to win the set at 5-4, Edberg showed the resilience that helped him the tournament. At 30-30 on his serve, Edberg was called for another foot fault, but he followed it on his second serve with the seventh of his eight aces. Edberg held, as Sampras did afterward, then won the tiebreaker.

"Yesterday, I felt I was starting to get the rhythm on my serve toward the end of the match," said Edberg, who had 18 double-faults against Chang. "With my serve it's the toss. I knew I had to do something."

Edberg had fewer serving problems, relying more on his stamina to survive.

"Physically, I'm one of the strongest guys on the tour," he said. "I depend on my ability to move a lot on court. I don't hit the ball so hard. For me it's my ability to move and my serve — that's the key to my game."

Edberg also showed more emotion than usual, kicking the ball, smacking the net and throwing a towel after frustrating volleys into the net or double-faults.

"The fatigue of his long matches wore on him, and he expected another against Sampras, who had won 16 straight matches and three titles in his last four events."

"He's been playing some great tennis," Edberg said. "He's on the best run of his life. I knew that coming into the final. I knew, though, that once something starts to go a little wrong, you can lose it. You lose the edge mentally. Probably, that's what happened today."

Meanwhile the Grand Slam tournaments have proved to be doubles magic for Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva in 1992.

The No. 3-seeded team at the U.S. Open captured their third year Sunday with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 victory over the top-seeded tandem of Jana Novotna and Larisa Savchenko-Neiland.

The twosome also won the



Stefan Edberg

AC Milan top table despite last minute scramble for goals

LONDON (R) — AC Milan topped the table despite defensive disarray as Italians enjoyed a feast of goals on the second weekend of their star-studded championship.

Milan scrambled back from 2-4 down to win 5-4 away over newly-promoted Pescara, but coach Fabio Capello refused to condemn the back line.

"Milan's defence is also that of the Italian national team and I don't believe that it is up for discussion."

AC Milan's Dutch striker Marco Van Basten, scorer of a timely match-winning hat-trick, was more critical: "It remains a very strange game. We went missing while they were very fast."

"Still something didn't work and we cannot go on like this."

Last week Milan scraped a home win against unfancied Foggia with a single own-goal, but no other side has won both the season's opening games.

Van Basten along with compatriot Frank Rijkaard and Yugoslav Dejan Savicevic formed the Milan foreign player trio against Pescara at the expense of Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin, Dutchman Ruud Geurts and Croat Zvonimir Boban.

In Turin, where Juventus beat Aialania 4-1, the foreign player question was also the subject of post-match interest with Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni explaining why for the second time, he had dropped Englishman David Platt in favour of German

Andreas Moeller, who scored twice.

"If I had dropped Moeller today, it would have seemed like a lack of confidence in him following last week's game (0-0 with Cagliari) and Moeller didn't deserve this as he amply proved."

In Rome, Lazio and Fiorentina starred in a sparkling 2-2 draw in which Fiorentina's three foreigners, Dane Brian Laudrup, German Stefan Effenberg and Argentine Gabriel Batistuta proved influential.

Zamorano, the Chilean striker Sevilla sold to Real Madrid this season, inspired his new team to a 3-1 victory over Real Burgos, hammering two goals in the space of seven minutes.

It was an important win for Real, who lost to champions Barcelona last week.

Barcelona easily outclassed Tenerife but threw away certain victory through sloppiness. Coach Johan Cruyff criticised the ground and said Tenerife's equaliser in the dying minutes was luck, but added: "In the first half we played really well — all we needed was to finish off the chances we created."

European Soccer

After the game, Lazio goalkeeper Valerio Fiori summed up a brilliant Laudrup performance by saying:

"Laudrup is a phenomenon. He slaughtered us. We picked up five yellow cards thanks to him."

Former Boca Juniors player Batistuta, scorer of both Fiorentina goals, enthused afterwards: "It's fun playing in this Fiorentina side. I've had more chances set up for me in two games with this team than in the entire second half of last season."

In Spain Sevilla, ruing the selling of Ivan Zamorano to Real

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THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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Peanuts

YOUR DOG ISN'T MUCH FOR CHASING A BALL, IS HE? OR MAYBE I JUST DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT WORD.

TRY "COOKIE"

BINGO!

Andy Capp

OPENING TIME, KID. LET'S GO.

WE CAN'T GET IT. GET A NEW CLOCK.

CASH? WHAT WAS WRONG WITH TERMS?

I LIKE TO PAY AS I GO.

AFTER YOU'VE PAID, WHERE CAN YOU GO?

Mutt'n'Jeff

MR. CORNFED? KID SAID HIS FATHER COULD KNOCK YOUR BLOCK OFF WITH ONE PUNCH!

THE BIG FAT COWARDLY WHY DON'T HE COME OUT AND TRY IT!

I'LL SHOW YOU, MR. CORNFED! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!

TAKE THAT, MR. CORNFED! AND THAT!

AND THAT! AND THAT!

LO! WHAT CHA DOIN'?

OH, NOTHING JUST BRAGGING ABOUT BEING A LATEFOR DINNER!

Bahrain wins 1st gold at Pan-Arab Games

DAMASCUS (R) — Bahrain took its first gold medal at the Pan-Arab Games with a win for its men's volleyball team over host nation Syria.

The Bahrainis who scored a surprise win over defending champions Tunisia early in the games, defeated their hosts 15/12, 15/8 and 15/1 in front of over 8,000 people at Al Assad Sports City in Latakia.

Syria and Kuwait will meet to contest for the silver and bronze.

Egypt won the handball gold medal, beating Saudi Arabia 25/22 in Hamah. Tunisia beat Syria 26/25 to take the bronze.

Jordan Sunday beat Tunisia 103-73 in the semifinals of the basketball competition to qualify for the final against Syria.

Egypt's women's basketball team scored its first ever win over Tunisia, defeating them 86/81.

Tunisia took an early lead, standing 46/16 ahead 11 minutes into the second half. Then the Egyptians began to fight back, equalising and then advancing, helped by the sending off of some of Tunisia's best players.

Rida Bin Qaddour of Algeria took the gold in the men's karate free-weight division held in Latakia, beating Saudi Arabia's Hassan Al Khatib who took the silver. Ahmed Al Khaleel of Kuwait and Fadi Antaki of Lebanon, won bronze.

The swimmers were due to resume their competition Monday in Latakia.

Medals table after 10th day

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Syria	36	24	27
Egypt	25	22	24
Algeria	21	15	18
Morocco	15	7	6
Qatar	8	3	1
Kuwait	5	2	11
Tunisia	2	17	18
Saudi Arabia	2	9	3
Jordan	1	5	4
Lebanon	1	—	8
Bahrain	1	—	1
Yemen	—	2	2
UAE	—	1	—
Oman	—	—	1

Fischer wins game eight, leads 3-2

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia (AP) — Bobby Fischer defeated Boris Spassky in just 40 moves to regain the lead in their \$5 million chess rematch, 3-2, after eight games. It was Fischer's second straight victory, and came when Spassky was playing white, giving him the theoretical advantage. Fischer won by exploiting a bad Spassky blunder.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A K 10 9
♣ A K 3

WEST
♠ 9
♥ A J 9 4
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ J 10 9 8

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 8 4
♥ Q K 8 2
♦ Q J 3
♣ 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Do you know how to think logically about the play of a deal? Why not take a look at the North-South holding then walk with South through a contract of four spades on this specimen from a rubber bridge game.

North-South were playing five-card majors with two-over-one responses forcing to game. Since a forcing raise of a major should not be made with only three-card support, North made a tampering bid of two diamonds before setting spades as trumps. South had no aspirations beyond game.

West leads the jack of clubs. Are you at all concerned about your contract?

If spades break 3-2, your contract is safe even if you lose a spade finesse. You will still collect four spade tricks, four diamonds and two clubs, and if the ace of diamonds is outside, you'll not be over-trick.

Can anything threaten your contract? Yes—a 4-1 spade break. If West has the long trumps, you are going to have to lose two trump tricks, and you'll need some luck to avoid losing two heart tricks even if the ace is outside. West will have to hold at least three diamonds.

What if East has the long spades? You can virtually guarantee your contract as long as one of East's trumps is the three. After winning the ace of clubs, lead a trump and just cover any card East plays. Assume it's the trey and you play the four. As the cards lie, West wins and, let's say, continues clubs. You win and cash a high spade to reveal the break. Cross back to the table with a diamond, take the marked trump-finesse and claim.

If East plays a higher spade on the first lead, win the king and enter dummy with a diamond or a club to lead another trump. Again, your intention should be to cover any card East might play, thereby assuring that you will lose a trick only to the safe hand.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Herit Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEWEG

ANSPY

LEHBD

TROIGE

Print answer here: " " " " " "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEGUN GIANT LEGACY TINGLE

Answer: What junior got when they put him in his new stroller—A LITTLE "BUGGY"

THE Daily Crossword by Robert O. Wilson

ACROSS

1 Loud burst of noise

5 Memorable time

10 Synonym

14 Phagocyte

15 Gaffer Palmer

16 Middle East city

17 Baking chamber

18 Brilliant tropical fish

19 Game on horses

20 Riddle

22 Made like a lion

24 Age and age

25 Army assault

26 House coat

28 Shaggy name

31 Boot-shaped country

35 Field station

37 Take for granted

38 Commemorate

39 Labor group

41 Garment material

42 Mureo cat

43 — motive

44 Perfect

45 Sial, Fr.

46 Airplane tricks

50 Becomes faint

53 Mureo cat

55 Advisory group

58 Newer

62 Viceroy

63 Friend

64 Purr

67 — in (yielded)

68 Thorny flower

69 Overdue

70 Wire-shaped

71 Kind of cookie

DOWN

1 Inlets to action

2 Root overhang

3 State strongly

4 Indignant

5 Deceived

6 Newspaper employees

7 Can. prov.

8 Coleridge

9 Learn

10 Mureo

11 Bemark

12 Mound

13 Walked

21 Show excessive

23 Elevator man

26 Flat prot.

27 Gave help

28 Come forth

30 Delatation

32 Of sound

33 Alphabet run

34 Long time

35 Sister

37 Opp. of syn.

40 Polonous shrub

41 Street light

44 Ken of TV

46 Arid

47 Tor's playlet

48 Star-shaped

52 Center of activity

54 Howdy

55 Ring up

58 Tune

59 Crooked

59 Social VIP

60 — Major

61 Ooze

64 A Gabor

إلى من يحب

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/19/92	TOKYO CLOSE 14/9/92
Sterling Pound	1.9210	1.8710
Deutsche Mark	1.4508	1.4970
Swiss Franc	1.2905	1.3203
French Franc	4.9255	5.0458**
Japanese Yen	124.30	124.88
European Currency Unit	1.3985	1.3591**

* 100 Per 370
** European Opening at 0.00 U.S. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.06	3.12	3.31
Sterling Pound	10.18	10.37	10.62	10.68
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.57	8.87	8.75
Swiss Franc	7.43	7.43	7.37	7.31
French Franc	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	4.28	3.90	3.83	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.62	10.62	10.62	11.15

Interest rate for 100 U.S. Dollars 1.000.00 or equivalent.

Previous Month

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	343.70	6.45	Silver	5.75	.090

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.675	0.677
Sterling Pound	1.2651	1.2714
Deutsche Mark	0.4454	0.4512
Swiss Franc	0.5080	0.5105
French Franc	0.1331	0.1338
Japanese Yen	0.5397	0.5424
Dutch Guilder	0.4009	0.4029
Swedish Krona	0.1280	0.1286
Italian Lira	0.0575	0.0578
Belgian Franc	0.02192	0.02203

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7500	1.7790
Lebanese Lira	0.02500	0.02900
Saudi Riyal	0.1797	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.2300	0.2500
Qatari Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.7220	1.7330
UAE Dirham	0.1829	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3735	0.3935
Cypriot Pound	1.5950	1.6250

* Per 100

CAB Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/9/92	Close	13/9/92	Close
All-Share	145.80		145.63	
Banking Sector	107.61		107.58	
Insurance Sector	150.91		150.33	
Industry Sector	197.28		196.79	
Services Sector	209.55		207.17	

December 31, 1990 = 100

Kuwaiti banks swap debts for state bonds

KUWAIT (R) — Borgan Bank, considered one of the weaker of Kuwait's six commercial banks, said Monday it had exchanged its debts for government bonds worth 520.9 million dinars (\$1.79 billion).

It was the second Kuwaiti bank in two days to reveal that its debts at the end of 1991 had been wiped off its balance sheet. The Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East (BKME) announced Sunday that it had exchanged its debts for government bonds worth 525 million dinars (\$1.8 billion).

Borgan Bank's balance sheet listed government bonds worth 520.92 million dinars as of Dec. 31, 1991, according to a copy of the annual report for 1990-91 obtained by Reuters.

The annual report said the date of exchange was effective as of Dec. 31, 1991, and added that the government bonds would carry floating interest rates to be decided by the central bank. The bonds will have a maximum 20-year maturity.

Western economists estimated that the rate of interest on the bonds would be around five per cent.

Borgan Bank's annual report also posted Monday a 40.3-million-dinar (\$139 million) net loss for the two-year period to

end-1991 that included Iraq's seven-month occupation. It compared with a net profit of 6.4 million dinars (then equivalent to \$21.95 million) in the year to Dec. 31, 1989.

The BKME reported Sunday a 45.78-million-dinar (\$227 million) net loss for the two-year period to end-1991.

Government officials have said the purchase of bank debts should restore balance sheets, allowing the banking system to recover and economic activity to increase. They hope banks will either beef up their capital and reserves or merge to become more competitive.

Kuwait adopted a plan in May to buy about \$70 billion of bad debts from its troubled commercial banks, an essential step in helping the economy recover after the upheavals of the Iraqi occupation.

The plan would allow banks to dispose of debts on 1991 balance sheets. It permits the government to buy the debts at a discount by issuing bonds with a maximum 20-year maturity. The government has not yet announced how it will restructure the debts with Kuwaiti citizens who owe the banks money.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
JORDANIAN BANK GROUP - AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
CRAVED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN 14/09/1992				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ZILAH BANK	1,101	2,053	2,030	2,080
JORDAN KHALIL BANK	21,084	2,300	2,220	2,370
THE JORDANIAN BANK	101,232	2,300	2,310	2,310
UTOM BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	12,035	2,500	2,520	2,560
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	11,088	2,320	2,330	2,390
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	288,314	2,320	2,340	2,430
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & COMMERCIAL	16,216	1,120	1,180	1,160
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	478,990	2,090	2,100	2,040
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	25,657	2,300	2,200	2,290
RENTAL BANK	11,794	2,100	2,150	2,100
RENTAL BANK INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	325,203	4,020	4,020	4,090
CHALMERS BANK	1,020	17,000	17,000	17,000
BANK OF JORDAN	147	14,650	14,700	14,700
ARAB BANK	57,750	15,000	15,000	15,000
KHALIL BANK	16,400	2,300	2,310	2,310
AL-WATAN AL-JAMALI INSURANCE	320	120	120	120
JORDAN INSURANCE	6,582	700	700	700
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	43,305	500	500	500
ARABIAN BANK INSURANCE	9,103	1,500	1,500	1,500
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	1,143	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDANIAN MARITIME COMPANY	12,778	1,250	1,250	1,250
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	126,246	4,900	4,900	4,900
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	14,530	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	480	2,400	2,400	2,400
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / AL-NABA	14,240	7,000	7,000	7,000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER GOODS	591,081	2,970	2,970	2,970
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	2,760	0,250	0,250	0,250
INSURANCE GROUP, SHIPPING & MARITIME	5,365	1,050	1,050	1,050
ARAB INTERNATIONAL & INVESTMENT BANKING	100,000	1,120	1,120	1,120
JORDAN CREDIT FOR INVESTMENT	100,000	0,830	0,830	0,830
JORDAN KHALIL BANK FOR BANKING & TRADING	1,413	1,140	1,130	1,130
JORDAN BANK	2,902	1,300	1,300	1,300
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	62,824	7,550	7,550	7,550
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY	87,662	7,000	7,000	7,000
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	84,949	8,400	8,400	8,400
ARAB CRITICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	31,228	21,000	21,000	21,000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	871,975	8,070	8,070	8,070
DAR AL-BAHAR DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	228,248	7,640	7,700	7,540
INTERMEDIAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	76,247	2,500	2,400	2,540
JORDAN CRITICAL INDUSTRIES	69,415	2,500	2,400	2,540
JORDAN CRITICAL INDUSTRIES	88,645	0,720	0,720	0,740
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	172,576	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES	2,821	2,950	2,950	2,950
THE JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES	28,281	2,950	2,950	2,950
ARAB CEMENT FOR BUILDING & CONCRETE	71,298	2,320	2,320	2,320
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	21,005	0,740	0,740	0,740
JORDAN CRITICAL INDUSTRIES	26,435	4,070	4,070	4,070
UNIVERSAL CRITICAL INDUSTRIES	11,826	12,750	12,700	12,650
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	5,270	2,350	2,400	2,400
BAFTA INDUSTRIES	5,892	3,480	2,600	3,460
WOLLA INDUSTRIES	21,884	2,800	2,800	2,800
JORDAN CRITICAL INDUSTRIES & METAL/STEEL	18,785	1,320	1,320	1,320
STEELING & WELDING	38,718	2,920	2,920	2,940
INTERNATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	141,354	2,900	2,900	2,920
JORDAN STEEL-CONCRETE	153,072	2,690	2,690	2,720
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	26,808	1,290	1,290	1,280
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	2,545	1,620	1,570	1,540
JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES	15,482	2,800	2,800	2,800
UNIVERSAL ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	126,134	4,820	4,820	4,820
ARAB CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL TRADE	578,402	2,130	2,170	2,480
JORDAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	11,008	6,100	6,100	6,120
GRAND TOTAL	5,789,978			
NO. OF TRADING ORDERS BY FOREIGN MARKET	21250			
TRADING VOLUME IN THE FOREIGN MARKET	1.30	60936		

Germany puts interests of Europe ahead of its own national interests

BONN, Germany (Agencies) — In a move intended to boost a stagnant U.S. economy and encourage moves toward European unity, Germany's central bank Monday cut its interest rates for the first time in nearly five years.

The central bank, called the Bundesbank, reduced the Lombard rate from 9.75 per cent to 9.50 per cent, and the discount rate from 8.75 per cent to 8.25 per cent.

The Lombard rate is the rate the Bundesbank charges for overnight loans and the discount rate is what the central bank charges other banks for longer-term loans. The reductions take effect Tuesday.

The Bundesbank's move marks a victory for Washington and for Bonn's European Community (EC) partners, which view Germany's high rates as a hindrance to their own economic recovery.

Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger said that because of the relative weakness of other EC currencies, the Bundesbank felt it could no longer continue with its tight monetary policy.

Since 1987, the Bundesbank has been raising its rates because of inflationary fears. The high rates caused problems for other European currencies as investors have dumped them in favour of the mark.

The Bundesbank's move boosted the dollar in European trading, to 1.48 marks, up from 1.45 marks Friday.

Lowering German interest rates could also affect the outcome of next Sunday's French referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European political and economic union.

Some French citizens fear German economic policy could overshadow that of its partners in a European union.

Germany may be hoping the rate cuts will demonstrate to the French that the Bundesbank is willing to act on other nations' concerns.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said after the Bundesbank's decision: "I expect positive effects on the French referendum from the lowering of rates."

Germany is one of the biggest proponents of European political

and economic union. After the Bundesbank's moves were announced, the Swiss National Bank lowered its discount rate half a percentage point, to 6.5 per cent. Switzerland is not a member of the EC.

And Sweden's central bank Monday lowered its marginal interest rate to 20 per cent, from a record 75 per cent introduced last week to protect the krona. The rate governs banks' deposits and borrowing from the central bank.

British tabloid newspapers, rejoicing in a German decision to cut interest rates, Monday portrayed the move as a glorious victory for Britain and an ignominious climbdown for Germany.

Pro-conservative tabloids said the interest rate move was a stunning coup for Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont and should help shore up the flagging pound.

"Lamont pound victory" trumpeted the Daily Express in a front-page report which gave much credit for the proposed cut to the British government, which has pressed for lower German borrowing rates to help out struggling European currencies.

The Daily Mail said the decision was a climbdown for the Germans under a barrage of pressure from Britain, current EC president.

"It is a notable coup for both (Prime Minister John) Major and his chancellor, who have been bombarding the German government with complaints about the intolerable level of interest rates which were luring more and more money to the mark," the Daily Mail said.

But the quality broadsheet newspapers were more sanguine. The Daily Telegraph reminded its readers that the pound was not yet out of the woods. "With the Italian lira devalued, the pound becomes the most exposed major currency in the system," it said.

"The Times struck a less than triumphant note, saying the weekend manoeuvres 'smacked of desperation.'"

It argued that the pound should be able to hold above its floor in the ERM currency grid until the Sept. 20 French referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

But if the French rejected the

pact on closer European union," Mr. Major should "seize the chance to cut Britain loose from the ERM," the paper said.

In Paris, French leaders, fighting anxiously for a "yes" vote in next Sunday's cliffhanger referendum on European union, hailed Germany's cut in interest rates Monday as a triumph for the spirit of the Maastricht treaty.

Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy called the German decision a great success for Europe and said France would be able to follow suit if voters endorsed the treaty of economic, monetary and political union.

"They have put the interests of Europe ahead of their own interests," Mr. Berégovoy said in a radio interview. "This spirit of Maastricht has prevailed over purely national interests."

"The Bank of France will follow. It will follow more easily after Sunday, Sept. 20," he said. "It's realistic. If the 'no' wins, there will be a monetary shock and a stock market shock."

Finance Minister Michel Sapin said it would be irresponsible to cut French rates ahead of the referendum, knowing that a "no" would have major negative consequences for financial markets.

"It is up to the French next Sunday to confirm, to reinforce the outlook for lower rates or to choose not to do so," he said.

In Rome, the devaluation of the lira gave Prime Minister Giuliano Amato little respite from his crisis Monday as pressure mounted for much tougher government action to redress Italy's floundering economy.

Facing criticism over his handling of the currency crisis and even calls for his resignation, Mr. Amato himself said that despite the seven per cent fall in the value of the lira, it was wrong to speak of an Italian devaluation.

"This is not a lira devaluation. This is a revaluation of the mark and an agreement by Germany to cut its interest rates," Mr. Amato told state TV, claiming credit for reducing what he said was one of the main causes of international recession.

"It's a defeat. An honourable defeat, but always a defeat ... it would have made more sense if

this realignment had seen matched by important economic measures sufficient to redress our public finances," said the head of Italy's largest bank.

Gianni Zandano, chairman of the Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino, told the Turin daily La Stampa what was needed were long-delayed measures to cut the budget deficit and reduce the public debt, the largest in the EC.

His call was echoed by Gianni Agnelli, head of the Fiat car group, who said it was vital to cut spending as quickly as possible on pensions and the health system — two of the main causes of the budget deficit.

Republican leader Giorgio La Malfa, whose small party traditionally reflects the views of the business establishment, blamed Mr. Amato for making the Bank of Italy waste 40 trillion lire (\$3.4 billion) in a useless defence of the currency.

"Amato really has to go now," commented Mr. La Malfa, saying the prime minister was "going through hell" in his cabinet because of the refusal of the ministers of health and labour to sanction cuts on health care and pensions.

Vowing even greater financial stringency after the currency realignment, Mr. Amato Sunday night promised that he would not by-pass parliament and resort to a decree to push through a reform of the pension system.

Mr. La Malfa, who has been critical of the government ever since Mr. Amato took office in July to end a three-month power vacuum, said a much broader coalition was needed, including the former Communist Party and the maverick Northern League.

In a similar line, one of the state radio stations broadcast an unusual editorial saying a government of national unity might be the only one capable of handling Italy's economic emergency.

Mr. Amato's government has only a fragile 16-seat majority in the lower house. The prime minister last week said he wanted parliament to give him special powers for three years in the event of an economic crisis — but ran into strong opposition.

The first major test for Mr. Amato is expected to come over the government's attempts to push through an agreement with unions holding down wage costs — now that labour leaders fear the devaluation will have inflationary effects.

Mr. Amato had hailed as a major victory a July 31 accord under which unions gave up the automatic pegging of wages to inflation and Sunday he stressed that the agreement remained valid.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9020/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2120/30	Canadian dollar
	1.4770/80	Deutsche mark</

Savage fighting breaks out in Sarajevo; peace talks doubtful

SARAJEVO (R) — Savage fighting broke out across Sarajevo Monday, ending a brief lull in the besieged Bosnian capital and probably ending next Friday's Geneva peace talks before they even begin.

"In these circumstances I don't think we will be going to Geneva," Ejan Ganic, a Muslim member of the Bosnian presidency, told reporters. "I don't think we will continue (the peace process) if it goes on."

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had already put the talks in doubt Sunday, threatening not to attend them if the United Nations went ahead with plans to impose a "no-fly" air exclusion zone over the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Geneva, a spokesman said U.N. peace envoy Cyrus Vance had told the Bosnian government he still expected it to attend the talks.

United Nations spokesman Fred Eckhard told reporters Mr. Vance had sent a message to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic reminding him he had made a "solemn and unconditional promise" to either attend the talks or send a top-level official.

But it appeared that the presidency had opted out of the talks even before Monday's fighting. Mr. Eckhard said Mr. Vance's message was in reply to a letter he received from Mr. Izetbegovic Sunday.

At the heart of the dispute is the agreement by both sides to permit United Nations inspection of their heavy weapons, to determine who was firing them first. This came into force at the weekend and was observed in Sarajevo but widely ignored elsewhere.

Early Monday Sarajevo Radio said the presidency's attendance at the talks was in doubt, and this was a signal for a devastating assault on the capital.

"This is the worst day since the start of the war," Kamal Kurstahic, editor in chief of Sarajevo's Oslobođenje newspaper, told Reuters from his home in the Hrasno suburb.

"There are many detonations in my immediate vicinity — mortars and maybe tank fire. From

the sound of it there is some sort of infantry attack."

Bosnian military commanders throughout the city told the same story, saying the Serb attackers were escalating the conflict, first with machine guns and mortars, then with heavy mortars and anti-aircraft cannon, and later with tank guns and 105 mm Howitzers the U.N. observers were meant to be monitoring.

Many buildings, including high-rise apartment blocks, were reported to be blazing, and hospitals in the city spoke of at least four dead and 50 wounded, with the eventual toll expected to be much higher.

Giving the Serb version of events, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Muslim forces had launched a mortar attack late Sunday and early Monday from the Western suburbs on the nearby Serb-held villages of Rajlovac, Ilidza and Osijek. The Serb side had only responded, it said.

SRNA quoted Bosnian Serb military sources as saying: "It is probable that the Muslim offensive for annihilating Sarajevo planned for mid-September has now begun."

U.N. spokesmen were not available for comment, but the presidency's Mr. Ganic said: "The heavy weapons were supposed to be under the control of UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force), but UNPROFOR are confused and disoriented."

"I am not surprised," said editor Kurstahic. "Personally I did not expect much from the control of artillery because the UNPROFOR observers were just going to take notes."

He added: "Maybe Karadzic is trying to fool public opinion because apart from Sarajevo, fighting at Jajce and Bihać is intensifying and there are also reports of fighting at Gorazde."

These were the other towns specifically covered by the weapons inspection agreement.

Agreement to the Geneva talks following last week's visit by Mr. Vance and EC mediator Lord Owen, who signed a string of accords with Yugoslavia's flexible



A couple run across a Sarajevo intersection during fighting in the Bosnian capital.

Prime Minister Milan Panic.

But Serbia's hardline president, Slobodan Milosevic, did not sign, increasing belief of a power struggle in Belgrade.

Mr. Ganic referred to unconfirmed reports that the Serbs had sent 100 tanks into Bosnia and said: "I think Karadzic is closer to Milosevic than ever."

Meanwhile, hospitals in the besieged Bosnian capital are bracing for a possible epidemic of typhus, following the first outbreak of the disease last week.

"We should expect typhus cases to appear here in October," Dr. Zeljko Ler at the Sarajevo's former military hospital said Monday.

"There's an incubation period of up to 40 days and the first cases should start appearing soon because water supplies to the city were cut last month."

Sarajevo's Medical Crisis Centre last Friday reported four cases of abdominal typhus — the first

time the feared disease has been found in the capital since the fighting began more than five months ago.

Medical experts say the disease can spread alarmingly when people are dizzy and crowded together. As they are in Sarajevo where water and food are in scarce supply.

"Typhus is water-borne, contagious and there is a mortality rate of between one and five per cent," Dr. Ler said.

"We have the antibiotics we need to treat it, but if we have an epidemic then we are likely to run short."

Dr. Ler said about 6,000 cases of intestinal diseases had been reported in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole, nearly half of them in the capital.

He added that although water and electricity supplies had been partially restored in the city, there were still problems in purifying the water.

Pretoria, ANC begin talks

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Government and ANC officials met Monday to try and clear the way for a summit between President F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela on the nation's political crisis.

African National Congress Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer met at a hotel in Pretoria, but neither side would give any details. The talks were expected to continue for several days.

Black and white leaders are struggling to resolve stalled talks on ending white minority rule amid mounting political violence. South Africa is caught in its worst political crisis since Mr. de Klerk began scrapping apartheid in 1990.

Mr. Ramaphosa and Mr. Meyer are trying to clear the way for the summit, where the two sides would try to resume talks on a new constitution that have been stalled since June.

The Citizen newspaper reported Monday that constitutional changes would be presented in parliament in October to allow Mr. de Klerk to form a multi-party government. The report, which did not cite sources, said the change would clear the way for a multiracial transitional government.

In other developments, police said eight members of the Inkatha Freedom Party were killed Monday when their truck was ambushed and raked with gun fire in the eastern province of Natal.

Officials of the mainly Zulu Inkatha claimed men dressed in security force uniforms carried out the attack at Umgababa. The attack was the third in recent weeks in the area against Inkatha, the main black opponent of the ANC.

Mr. Meyer said in a television debate Sunday night with Mr. Ramaphosa that the government was not willing to negotiate on the basis of demands. He said the ANC must restrain anti-government passions.

Both men said the differences could be resolved to clear the way for a summit. Mr. Ramaphosa described the summit as "a breath of fresh air" which could resume the reform process.

The ANC, the country's main black opposition group, is demanding concessions, including the release of political prisoners, before it will accept the proposed summit.

Mr. de Klerk appealed last week for a summit with Mandela to revive stalled constitutional talks. De Klerk made the appeal after 25 ANC supporters were killed by troops in the nominally independent Ciskei black homeland.

Previous attempts to revive constitutional talks have floundered when the government has refused to meet ANC demands, such as freeing 400 political prisoners. The government denies holding any political prisoners, saying the people identified by the ANC were convicted of violent crimes.

The ANC is also demanding measures to control migrant worker hostels, a major source of violence, and better controls on the carrying of weapons in public.

The ANC pulled out of talks on preparing a new constitution in June to protest violence in black townships that has claimed thousands of lives in recent years.

Thai anti-military parties agree on government

BANGKOK (R) — Four of Thailand's anti-military parties reached preliminary agreement Monday to form a coalition government following victory in Sunday's elections, a senior Democrat Party member of parliament said.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Leekpai would be nominated as prime minister, Banyat Bantathan told reporters.

Mr. Leekpai's party, which played a major role in the pro-democracy demonstrations suppressed by the military in Bangkok in May, emerged from the polls as the largest parliamentary group with 79 seats.

"I am quite confident that if the four former opposition parties stick together we can form a government," Mr. Leekpai told Reuters earlier.

The four-party alliance holds a total of 185 seats in the 360-seat House of Representatives, the powerful lower house of parliament.

Mr. Leekpai's Democrats have joined forces with the Palang Dharma Party led by Chamlong Srimuang, the New Aspiration Party led by former army chief Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and the small Solidarity Party.

Political sources said the eight-seat Siritham (Justice Freedom) Party founded by former House Speaker Arthit Uthairat was also likely to join the coalition.

Scores of demonstrators were killed in May by troops of General Suchinda Kraprayoon who had been appointed non-elected prime minister by a coalition of pro-military parties that formed a government after elections in March.

Gen. Suchinda, who had led a coup against the previously elected government in February, 1991, resigned in disgrace and was replaced by the popular interim government of Anand Panyarachan, who moved to weaken the military's power.

Mr. Chuan, a youthful-looking 54-year-old, said his foreign policy would emphasize Thailand's economic development.

"The cold war is over," he told Reuters. "Now is the era of the economic leading the political. I would like to pursue Mr. Anand's policy of free trade, strengthen Thai businessmen to compete in the world market."

He spoke of the need to decentralize development outside Bangkok, which is much richer than the rest of Thailand.

Political commentators said the pro-democracy parties would act quickly to send Mr. Chuan's name to the king for appointment to the premiership.

The Democrat Party leader could take up his new job as early as next Monday.

Prices on Thailand's stock exchange soared nearly 2.5 per cent Monday morning. "The poll results are clear cut," said Nimit Nonthapanthawat, chief economist at Bangkok Bank.

"We certainly have come a long and painful way to where we are today," the Nation newspaper said.

"The people of Thailand have given the Democrat Party and Chuan a chance to pull the nation out of the vicious circle of election-corruption-coup."

to have access to Pyongyang's nuclear facilities to allay suspicions that the North is on the verge of developing a nuclear bomb.

But Pyongyang, denying any military aspirations for its nuclear programme, has so far allowed only inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into its plants.

South Korea denied Monday allegations that it allows U.S. submarines to carry nuclear warheads into its territory in violation of an inter-Korea nuclear arms ban.

The denial by the South Korean Defence Ministry came in response to North Korean charges that U.S. nuclear submarines make frequent calls at the southern naval port of Chinhae. A South Korean dissident magazine made the same charge in its September issue.

"Not a single nuclear warhead exists in the Republic of (South) Korea and there is no nuclear submarine base in any form," ministry spokesman Yoon Chang-Ro said in a statement.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, carried a statement Saturday from a northern anti-nuclear committee criticizing a U.S. nuclear submarine base in the South.

The (North) Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee demanded that U.S. and South Korean authorities admit U.S. nuclear submarines made port calls in the South as preparations for war, KCNA said. Committees in the North usually reflect official policy.

The South wants its inspectors

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"I think we're seeing a snowball" from Republicans on debates, said Mr. Stephanopoulos. Mr. Bush spokesman Tomie Clarke countered: "There will be debates and it will all be worked out in due time."

— Vice President Dan Quayle seemed to modify his earlier support for an immediate constitutional ban on abortions.

Appearing on ABC's This Week With David Brinkley, Mr. Quayle said that a Pennsylvania law that restricts but does not ban abortions was "a good starting point."

Mr. Bush, who campaigned Sunday in California with help from former President Ronald Reagan, was opening his day in San Diego, then heading to Washington and Oregon — two of the 10 states he lost in 1988.

Mr. Clinton was heading Monday morning to Oregon, where he was to address a midday rally in downtown Portland and later to meet with timber industry representatives in Eugene. He campaigns in California Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Bush aides said the President would seek to portray the Democratic ticket Monday as favouring environmental protection over a sound economy.

At Mr. Bush's first stop, San Diego, developers are worried that the federal government will add the gnatcatcher bird to its list

of protected species. That could sharply curtail development in coastal southern California.

He was then to head to Oregon, putting both candidates in the state at the same time.

Aides hinted the president will call for changes in the endangered species act, under which the Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990.

Since then, logging in the northwest's national forests has come to a virtual halt under federal court orders that have found government harvesting practices to be in violation of U.S. environmental laws.

Mr. Clinton has said that, if elected, he'll convene a Pacific northwest forest summit within his first 100 days that would deal with the spotted owl issue and other problems.

"I don't know if you can satisfy everybody completely. But you can have a balance," Mr. Stephanopoulos said Sunday when asked about the spotted owl controversy. "You do need a balance between jobs and the environment."

Mr. Bush aides said the president is not ready to write off the west coast, despite Mr. Clinton's comfortable lead there. And Mr. Clinton aides said the Arkansas governor is not about to take the region for granted.

California has 54 electoral votes, Washington 11 and Oregon 7.

Seoul holds China card in talks with North

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik heads this week for talks in the Communist North bolstered by Seoul's new-found diplomatic ties with China. Pyongyang's main ally and paymaster.

Mr. Chung will cross the heavily-fortified inter-Korean border early Tuesday, bound for an eighth session of talks with Northern counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk aimed at defusing the world's latest major cold war confrontation.

Mr. Chung and his 89-member delegation return Friday.

Seoul's long awaited establishment of diplomatic relations with China last month will have shifted the diplomatic goalposts in South Korea's favour since the prime ministers' last meeting in May, Western analysts said Monday.

A Seoul government source close to the talks said North Korea, still trying to assess the significance of South Korea's ties with Peking, is likely to adopt stalling tactics.

Pyongyang has yet to acknowledge publicly the South's establishment of diplomatic relations with Peking, long North Korea's closest ally.

"We are not necessarily that hopeful that this coming round of talks is going to prove as successful as previous ones," said the government source, who asked not to be named.

He said south Korea would stick rigidly to its position on the main issue which is currently blocking moves towards North-South détente — the North's nuclear programme.

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to have access to Pyongyang's nuclear facilities to allay suspicions that the North is on the verge of developing a nuclear bomb.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'Mitterrand fit and in control'

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy said Monday President François Mitterrand was in good health after prostate surgery last Friday and had fully resumed his duties from his hospital bed. Mr. Berégovoy told France Inter radio. Mr. Mitterrand was working at Paris' Hospital Cochin via direct telephone links with close aides. The prime minister was eager to reassure voters ahead of next Sunday's referendum on the Maastricht Treaty on European Union. He said Mr. Mitterrand, whose political future largely depends on French approval of the treaty, planned to travel to his constituency of Chateaufort-Chinon in central France to vote for the treaty.

Yeltsin to visit S. Korea in November

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who called off a trip to Japan and South Korea this week, is expected to visit Seoul in mid-November, according to State Secretary Gennady Burbulis. "It was agreed between Yeltsin and (South Korean President) Roh Tae-Woo, the new date of (Yeltsin's) visit was set for Nov. 12-13," Mr. Burbulis said in a television interview late Sunday. Mr. Yeltsin is also planning a trip to Britain in November to possibly sign a new friendship treaty and discuss economic cooperation, his foreign minister said Sunday. Britain holds the rotating presidency of the European Community. Andrei Kozyrev, speaking in a television interview, tried to play down Yeltsin's cancellation of a long-awaited trip to Japan this week to discuss the disputed Kuril Islands, saying the visit was merely postponed and that contacts were continuing.

3 injured in Belfast bar shooting

BELFAST (R) — Three men were injured, one critically, when gunmen attacked a bar frequented by both Catholics and Protestants in Belfast City Centre, police said Monday. Hospital sources in the Northern Ireland capital said one of those injured in the Sunday evening shooting was in critical condition. The other two were comfortable after undergoing emergency surgery. Two of the three injured were doorman wounded as they tried to stop the gunmen from entering the packed bar.

Fujimori vows to beat rebels

LIMA (R) — Abimael Guzman, the once elusive leader of the Shining Path guerrilla group, was behind bars Monday but President Alberto Fujimori warned his countrymen not to lower their guard in the war against the guerrillas. "I am committed to defeating terrorist groups by (the time I leave office) in 1995, but this should not be interpreted as claiming victory," Mr. Fujimori said in a televised speech Sunday night. "We should not claim victory nor lower our guard for one minute in the face of these fanatics and criminals," said Mr. Fujimori. As he spoke, the government transmitted the first pictures of the captive Guzman, founder and ideological chief of the Maoist guerrillas that have waged a 12-year war against the state. One televised image showed a grim, bearded Guzman with a placard around his neck showing his prisoner number, while another showed him behind bars with his fist in the air. Guzman, 57, was being held at the heavily-guarded headquarters of Peru's National Police in central Lima after being captured Saturday night with seven other guerrillas in a home in a southern district of the capital, police said.

Hurricane relief continues in Hawaii

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — Troops patrolled and helped clean up neighbourhoods devastated by hurricane Iniki and officials tended to more than 7,000 people in shelters as Kauai took its first halting steps toward normalcy Monday. Federal officials said 10,000 homes were badly damaged when Hawaii's worst storm this century blasted across the resort island Friday. Most of the island's 70 hotels sustained serious damage. "Wherever you look, it's heartbreak alley," said Fred Allen, who said he rode out the hurricane in his bed with a bottle of gin. "This was one hell of a storm." Limited phone service was restored, giving the island's 52,000 residents their first link to the outside world since the

storm hit. Water was restored to about half the island, including Lihue, the largest town. But it may take more than a week to get Lihue's power plant running, officials said. "We're getting some things done, but every time we fix one problem another one arises," said Kauai Mayor Joann Yekimura. Crews continued the daunting task of clearing up utility poles, trees and pieces of buildings that gave way under Iniki's sustained wind of 130 mph (209 kph) and gusts to 160 mph (257 kph).

U.N. signs law on Cambodian parties

PHNOM PENH (R) — Electoral guidelines covering the establishment of political parties have been signed into law by the head of U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia, his spokesman said Monday. "Both UNTAC (U.N. Transitional Authority of Cambodia) and the four existing administrative structures are responsible for undertaking efforts to ensure that a neutral political environment exists and that public order is maintained," the spokesman said. The law was signed this weekend by UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi. A peace agreement signed in Paris last October by all four Cambodian factions paved the way for the deployment of UNTAC, which will supervise the running of the country until the holding of elections. The new law sets precise guidelines for all Cambodian political parties and will govern their activities in the lead up to next May's U.N.-supervised national elections. It is intended that the new law will act as a confidence-building measure for political parties wanting to set up offices in the Cambodian countryside, the U.N. spokesman said.

Liberian rebels vow to crush rivals

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — A guerrilla leader vowed Sunday to crush Charles Taylor's rebel army unless it is disarmed by peacekeeping forces. "We are intensifying our efforts to crush him and we will crush him sooner or later," Joseph Taylorbar, secretary general of the United Liberation Front of Liberia for Democracy, said at a press conference. Meanwhile, none of the 508 West African peacekeeping forces held hostage by Mr. Taylor's rebels had returned to the capital of Monrovia by mid-afternoon Sunday, two days after the rebel leader agreed to let him withdraw. Mr. Taylor made the promise to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who was on a tour of West African countries. "It seems some are on their way now," said Biola Lawal, press secretary of the peacekeeping forces.

U.S. teams find remains in Vietnam

HANOI (R) — American experts hunting for clues of missing U.S. servicemen from the Vietnam War have found remains but have not yet determined whether they are American, the head of investigation said Monday. Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Donovan told Reuters that during a month-long search some remains were found where U.S. military aircraft crashed during the war, while others were turned over by villagers. He declined to give details, saying the remains would be tested to see if they were American. About 50 American experts, working in five teams, have been flying to mountainous areas by helicopter, trekking through deep jungle and driving to remote spots along the coast to interview villagers and dig up two old crash sites.

56 hurt in Japan train crash

TOKYO (AP) — At least 56 people were injured Monday when a four-car train carrying about 300 passengers collided with a dump-truck at a railway crossing northeast of Tokyo. An official of the Chiba Prefectural Police said the first two cars were derailed in the collision and a 10-ton dump truck was destroyed completely. The truck driver was among the people injured.

U.N. helicopter crashes in Angola

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A United Nations helicopter crashed in Angola's northern Uige province, seriously injuring the crew and four passengers, state-run radio said Monday. The MI-8 helicopter was carrying 23 people when it crashed Saturday due to technical problems, the radio said in a broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

COLUMN

720 couples renew wedding vows after 50 years

CHICAGO (AP) — Most wore glasses. Almost all were gray. And all 1,440 were in love. Seven hundred twenty couples gathered Sunday at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral to celebrate their 50th anniversaries and renew their wedding vows. "Truly your lives exemplify the meaning of commitment," Cardinal Joseph Bernardin told the couples. "You are examples and models for all of us and for your children." These couples married in 1942. They've seen 10 presidents and four wars. "You have faith," said Jeanne Mitchell, 67, celebrating with her husband, Ray. "I don't remember anything being so hard I couldn't cope with it." Children of many couples attended the annual service, too.

Boy catches toddler falling from window

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Javon Saucier was playing football when he made a 30-yard (metre) dash to complete the greatest reception of his life: catching a 3-year-old neighbour falling from a window. "I knew I could catch him," 6-year-old Javon said. "People were calling me, Javon, the hero." Brandon Ellison's mother had told him that he couldn't go out because no one could watch him. He tried to sneak out through his second-floor window, about 15 feet (5 metres) off the ground. Javon was playing football in the parking lot below when he saw Brandon squirming to pull himself back on the ledge. "Brandon, you get back in," Javon shouted as he ran over. When he realised Brandon was stuck, Javon told the youngster to hold on while he went to get Brandon's mother. But Javon realised he didn't have time before the boy would fall and shouted, "let go, I'll catch you." Brandon let go, narrowly missing a lower window ledge as he fell into Javon's arms. Neither boy was injured. Betsy Park, a nurse practitioner at community health care plan where Brandon was seen, said the boy could have been gravely injured if Javon had not helped him. Mr. Park gave Javon a \$10 reward.

Cosby tops U.S. entertainers' earnings list

NEW YORK (R) — Bill Cosby, who retired from his role on his popular television comedy programme, will earn millions from reruns of The Cosby Show and again tops the list of Forbes magazine's 40 highest-paid entertainers. The magazine said Cosby should pull in an estimated \$98 million for 1991 and 1992. Forbes put his net worth at more than \$300 million, which it said would make him the richest entertainer in America. Second on the list is talk show host Oprah Winfrey. The number three spot went to actor and director Kevin Costner. The New Kids On The Block pop group slipped from first to fourth place.

Motel guests on lookout for peeping Toms

NEW YORK (R) — When you check into your motel room these days, you may not be quite as alone as you think. U.S. lawyers say "peephole" lawsuits are on the increase — and one case has resulted in a \$4 million punitive damages award for a couple who found themselves in a "room with a view" they didn't know about. A jury in Iowa decided in favour of the couple after hearing they had been spied on through a two-way mirror in a motel while celebrating their engagement in bed. "I would not be surprised if virtually every motel had had this problem at some time," the couple's lawyer said.

Russian couple try to swap baby for apartment

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian couple tried to place a newspaper advertisement to swap their newborn baby for a bigger apartment. ITAR-TASS News Agency said. It said the parents, both students, stated they could not afford to keep the child and were looking for a two- or three-room apartment to replace their existing, tiny home. They sent the proposed advertisement to a local newspaper, saying both of them were "absolutely healthy, tall, good-looking, well-built, and offer full guarantees." The mother said her one-off child-benefit of 3,000 roubles (\$14) was pitiful in relation to the cost of baby clothes, blankets and a pram.